

ANECDOTES
OF THE
DELBOROUGH FAMILY.

A NOVEL.

IN FIVE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

BY MRS. GUNNING.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR WILLIAM LANE,
AT THE
Minerva Press,
LEADENHALL-STREET.

M DCC XCII.

THE HISTORY OF THE
 OF THE
 DR. ROUGH FAMILY.
 A NOVEL.
 IN FIVE VOLUMES.



BY MRS. GUNNING.

LONDON:
 PRINTED FOR WILLIAM LANE,
 AT THE
 CHURCH-YARD,
 LEADENHALL-STREET.

hi
 re
 th
 co

ANECDOTES
OF THE
DELBOROUGH FAMILY.

CHAP. XX.

HAVE you observed the beauty of the writing? Every letter is an exhibition. Have you seen with what correctness it is pointed? Have you admired the faultless orthography of the whole composition?

I am so little of a critic, Madam, replied the Colonel, or so intirely disposed to overlook any errors of education, that, when I am permitted the honour to inspect a Lady's production, provided my judgment is not shocked by ignorance, or my feelings offended by an absolute deficiency of sentiment; if I trace sense and sensibility, though ill pointed, ill written, and ill spelt, I forget every thing, but that the writer must have a good head, which wants but a little furnishing, and a heart, where no alteration can be made for the better.

I believe you are in the right, Mr. Fairfax, perfectly right, yet, I assure you, Lady Augusta Drawl's hand is more admired than the finest sense in the world.

Oh! my dear Madam, say no more; but from this moment set me down for her adorer. There is not in the universe a
greater

greater devotee to a white hand than I am.

Pish ! I mean that her hand-writing is so much the object of admiration ! This was rather spoken in a peevish accent, as neither Lady Dorothy herself, or her young friend, Lady Augusta, was remarkable for that female charm, which was so highly rated in the estimation of our Colonel.

I will not trouble your Ladyship with any further inquiries on this subject, replied her nephew ; but, with your permission, examine the pretensions of the other Ladies, who may have formed designs on my freedom.

You are mistaken ; your vanity misleads you ; they have no designs on your freedom ; they know nothing about you.

Dear Madam, do not be displeased; it was impossible I should mean to offend you.

Well, well, I am not angry; but Lady Augusta Drawl is not a subject to be taken up lightly, or thrown aside without ceremony. Her, mother, Lady Watchit, is a dowager; her jointure three thousand a year; the settlement on younger children fifty thousand pounds, which great sum has been accumulating six years, during the minority of Lady Augusta, she being (one brother excepted, now on his travels) the only descendent of the late Earl and Dowager Countess of Watchit. In four months she will be mistress of herself and fortune. Talking of the present Lord Watchit, who is just turned of twenty-two, and expected home before Christmas, puts me in mind of my niece, Emely: How did you leave
5 her,

her, and when am I to expect her in town?

In a week, or fortnight at the farthest, Madam, I hope to have the honour of presenting my sister to your Ladyship. She only waits for the removal to town of her good friend Mrs. Edwin, who would not permit Emely to undertake so long a journey without her.

That will be soon enough, replied her Ladyship; for, though, my dear Sir, I confess you are a very accomplished gentleman, and no discredit to your father's family; forgive me, if I suspect a young woman, bred up intirely in the country, with mighty good sort of people, will want the brush of fashion to pass over her exteriors before she can be brought out to advantage, and we shall have time enough for those sort of embellishments before the town fills, and the drawing-room be-

comes sufficiently crowded, to make her presentation conspicuous. I shall henceforth look on you as my son, and also act as a mother by your sister, so that the world will not see in you the descendants of a banker, but the heirs of Lady Dorothy Petting.

Whilst her Ladyship was thus speaking, manly pride, filial reverence, and fraternal love, formed a very alarming commotion in the heart of Colonel Fairfax ; but his passions, though strong, had never, on any occasion, gained the mastery over his reason, particularly on the present, where, though he saw much to condemn, he also found something to approve ; whatever had mortified his pride, or wounded his affection, he placed to a score more advantageous to her heart than to her head, and all her declared intended kindness he placed to the account of himself and sister, as a letter of credit that intitled her to a demand on their gratitude.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXI.

IN consequence of so equitable a decision as that with which we ended our last chapter, Colonel Fairfax thanked his aunt with more gracefulness than servility in his own and his sister's name, for the bounty she meant to bestow upon them, and then to give the conversation another turn from that which had occasioned him some embarrassment, he reverted to the notes he had before obtained permission to peruse, and opening one of them, found in it the following contents.

B 4

My

DELBOROUGH FAMILY.

My dear Madam, the honor of dining with your ladyship to-morrow, I shall accept with pleasure; so far from objecting to the short notice, I regard it as a proof of your friendship, and am happy to have formed no prior engagement that can interfere with my assuring your ladyship in person, how much I am, &c. &c.

SELINA DANGLE.

P. S. My father complains much of the rheumatism, poor man! but old people must always have something to complain of; if I had one single day that I could call my own, I would certainly dedicate it to his amusement.

How dutiful, how affectionate is Lady Selina, cried Colonel Fairfax, in an ironical tone, no man can have a doubt what sort of a wife such a daughter will make.

True

True my dear Charles, you cannot imagine how attentive she is to the duke, who being almost superannuated, seldom leaves his house; and is often confined to his chamber; she sends a dozen messages daily, to know how his Grace does; makes a rule of looking in upon him every morning before she goes out; laments his infirmities wherever she goes, and has him moved to a distant apartment, when she gives a ball or an assembly, that he might not be incommoded, or his rest broken; then she is a perfect beauty, the very rage of fashion, followed by a train of lovers, but so very discreet, that it is supposed she will never make her election of a husband from amongst them; I am too partial, or quite mistaken, if a certain person now in my eye, will not have a much better chance of succeeding.

Here was a hint that could not be misunderstood, but which the Colonel parry'd

B 5

with

with address, by enquiring if the Marquis was returned from Italy, where he had the honor of being slightly known to him, and if he was yet on good terms with his father.

Oh, yes, replied Lady Dorothy, he has been at home some weeks, and Lady Selina told me in confidence, that he had made his peace with the duke, by consenting to bestow the title of Marchioness of Greendale on Miss Palmerton, who is reported to be worth half a million at least; and on the strength of this alliance, the Duke of Angrave has guaranteed to double the fortunes of his younger children, so that instead of thirty thousand, the sum he gave with Lady Margaret, her Ladyship, Lord Francis, Lord John, and my friend Lady Selina, will each be worth sixty thousand on the marriage of their brother, and the death of their father.

And

And is the first of these events, madam, in forwardness, or is the completion of it seen only at a distance?

Dear child, said her ladyship, come to me at five to-morrow, which is a full hour before I expect my other company, and I will tell you as much as I know of this matter; it is a strange affair altogether, the marquis is so unaccountable, but not another word now, or I shall miss my airing; see how my little darlings are pawing me to take them out; do me the favor to pull the bell.

Overjoyed at his dismissal, the command was executed with avidity; two tall fellows in livery obeyed the summons, who, without orders, mechanically knew their duty, and each bearing away a four-footed favourite in his arms, followed their lady, who being seated by the assistance of the Colonel in her carriage, whilst her beloved companions occupied the vacant seat in the back, she

kissed her hand, wished her nephew a good morning, though it was past three o'clock in the afternoon; put him in mind that he was to be with her at five next day, then ordered herself to be conveyed to Kensington Gravel Pits, and Colonel Fairfax fauntered back to his lodgings to dress for dinner, being engaged to dine with some sober people, at a sober hour, which we forbear to name, that no illiberal comments may be made by the fashionable world, on the circle of his unfashionable acquaintance. We also hold ourselves absolved, after the conversation which passed between Lady Dorothy and her nephew, from a further display of the ladies who are to form her ladyship's dinner party to-morrow, that good lady having superceded our intentions, by lifting up the curtain we had dropped, and giving the audience so satisfactory a peep, that any other developement must of necessity be deferred till time and incidents bring them

them forward in the future pages of this history.

We think it should be the business of an author, to make the road of variety his study, and to convey his readers by easy stages, from one scene of delight to another; now in the gay world, now in the *sombre* shades of retirement; one moment dilating their hearts with pleasure, the next bringing them acquainted with sorrow; again to restore the dimpled smile of joy to their cheek, fill their eyes with joy and vivacity, and again overwhelm them in the tears of sensibility; in this opinion, whether right or wrong, on we go, and are now conveying our readers through a very fine country, though by reason of the dark night in which we travel, they must take our word for it, not being able to see it with their own eyes. The only place we have stopped at in our way to the beautiful seat of Mrs. Edwin,

is

is the house of Mr. Dormer, and that only to refresh ourselves with a dish of tea, to be assured from her own lips, that Emely Fairfax is well, and most happy in the protection of her kind host and hostage; to see her pretty face animated with the expectation of Mrs. Edwin's arrival, and their London excursion, for which we find her making the necessary preparations, which we should be very sorry to interrupt by our presence; so leaving her at her toilet, packing up her jewels, flowers, and feathers, and her faithful Abigail almost buried in huge trunks, imperials piled upon each other, and banboxes of all dimensions, we pursue our road to Mrs. Edwin's, at whose door we sat you down precisely at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Dinner was just removed from the table, and had been succeeded by a desert of such fruits as were seasonable, and some whose season had been prolonged by art. Mrs.
Edwin

Edwin was quite alone ; neither her attitude or her looks bespoke her engaged in the business of preparation, or that her thoughts were occupied on any subject from which she could derive pleasure or comfort ; her arm rested on the table, and supported a very pale face, on which, though the bloom of youth no longer presided, there still remained a character indefinable and beautifully interesting ; melancholy and meditation marked her countenance ; a tear, unperceived by herself, had strayed down her cheek and fallen on her hand ; she started, and a blush of conscious self reprobation dried up the traces of her weakness ; she then drew towards her a dish of peaches, from which she picked out some of the fairest, and adding to them the best and most tempting of the other fruits, she rung for a servant, and ordered him to carry them, with her compliments, to Doctor Harvey, and to tell him, she wished himself, and Mr. Henry Harvey, a safe voyage,

voyage, and much benefit from the change of climate ; this message being dispatched, in which she had exhausted her whole stock of fortitude, the tears of affection and regret were permitted to flow without restraint, and fell in large drops on a letter she had taken from her bosom, which pressing to her lips, she laid open before her ever and anon, trying through the mist of her tears to retrace the afflicting contents.

If the exhibition of Mr. Henry Harvey's everlasting adieu to Mrs. Edwin, could possibly afflict our readers as it afflicted Mrs. Edwin, or give them the twentieth part only of her sorrow, far would it be from our wishes to be the instruments of their sufferings ; no, we would much rather consign it to oblivion ; but understanding, by a course of the most accurate observation, that the human heart is so constructed, as by a small valve to exclude the entrance of all misfortunes that do not immediately

immediately appertain to itself, opening to receive its own, but closing against the woes of others; we shall venture to communicate this very extraordinary epistle in our next chapter.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXII.

MR. HENRY HARVEY

T O

MRS. EDWIN.

H EAVEN prolongs my existence, but your image which has taken root in my soul will imbitter it for ever, it has driven from thence every idea but of thee ! even my salvation ! Oh, horror may be the sacrifice ! you have broken in upon my course of penitence which should have
known

known no interruption, my remorse becomes cold and languid, the fervency which used to attend my oraisons to the throne of mercy is diverted from its current, I feel it not except it flows to thee when I think of thy sweet condescension, thy gentle pity, thy gracious offers to bless me with thyself, with thy tenderest affection, then it is I am indeed fervent, Heaven! how fervent is then my love, my gratitude, but for whom is it I feel this sentiment of devotion, of adoration, not for him who snatched me from perdition, and saved me from the horrors of being an actual paricide; Oh, no, no, but for a creature, who all excellent as she is created, is yet but the work of his divine hand, and perishable as I am. Dear, dear, Mariana, has Colonel Fairfax really told you all my guilt, has he concealed no part of it from you? has he not drawn the veil of compassion over a scene almost too horrible for representation, but which for your
lake

fake I charged him to expose in all its sanguinary colours. I repeat my question, has Fairfax shewn you how my accursed arm was uplifted to take away the life of my father? I ask you if it can be possible, that knowing me for the monster I am, you could hold out your innocent unpolluted hand to unite it with mine, and yet my own feelings at this moment tell me, that to angel goodness like yours, even this effort of mercy may have been possible; but dear deceived creature, suffer me, without repining, to be the guardian of your honor and of your happiness, not by taking you to my arms, but by casting you from them; a union with such a wretch would for ever dishonor you, though my crimes were only known to you and to myself. And happiness, where would you seek for happiness, not in the deserted bosom from whence guilt has driven it, there you never could have found it!—perhaps there have been moments, in which, hurried on by passion, I wished to
lead

lead you to this gloomy desolated mansion. When I met you in the meadow I had almost compleated your undoing, by drawing from you the tender secret of your heart, and seizing on the blessing your emotion told me you would not withhold from my intreaties; had I then said, Mariana be the wife of thy Henry, thou wouldst not have spurned me from thee, it was thy tenderness, thy generosity, that saved thee from destruction; I had conducted thee to the brink of a fearful precipice, and with the loss of my own senses pushed thee back from the danger of which thou wert then unconscious.

Dearest, best of human beings, farewell for ever, I will not subject myself to such another scene, we meet no more; in three days I leave this country, never to return; that father who owes me nothing but his severest malediction, has insisted on being my affectionate guide and inseperable com-

companion; Italy will receive the body of thy Henry, his broken spirit must find a home in thy remembrance, it will ever hover near thee—receive, cherish and pity the desolate wanderer, when there shall be no traces left of thy

HENRY HARVEY.

When we find Mrs. Edwin sitting after dinner and reading this wonderful composition, in which the passion of love and the refinements of honor are carried to a flight only below insanity, we are not to suppose that this was the first, second or third time she had wetted it with her tears, it had been two days in her possession, and re-read by her every two hours, the mild and almost torpid sorrow in which we found her involved, was very unlike the emotions of her agitated mind, when she first saw the disappointment of all her hopes in the determined but noble steadiness of her unhappy lover, she had sought for and obtained an interview with
Dr.

Dr. Harvey, he had endeavoured to console, but did not flatter her; on the contrary he had convinced her that the resolution of his son was immutable.

We have not thought it necessary, gentle reader, to tell thee by what train of adventures Mr. Henry Harvey had come at the information that the hand and fortune of his beloved mistress were at his devotion, because the path to this event was so plainly marked out before the departure of Emely and her brother from the neighbourhood, that we thought it impossible thou should miss the way, but must have seen clearly in Mrs. Edwin's remaining behind them, something more than friendship for the poor invalid, whose return from the gates of death she would most willingly have celebrated with nuptial honors; suffice it to say she thought it no breach of decorum to make Dr. Harvey the confidant of her generous intentions,

ons, who most joyfully undertook to negotiate the affairs of her heart, with what ill success has already appeared; when we found her weeping over the fatal letter, it was on the eve of that day when the father and son were to begin their journey to the continent; she had only submitted to her fate because it was in vain to contend, she had folded up her letter and again replaced it in her bosom, when the idea of his departure on the morrow presented itself to her imagination, and she cried out in an agony that could not be silenced, he leaves me and leaves me for ever, why must it be cruel Henry, more cruel to me than to thyself, why, why must we part for ever!

As she said this the door opened and Dr. Harvey made his appearance; as the good man advanced towards her she rose to receive him, her visible agitation spoke a language not to be misunderstood, yet to have seemed to comprehend it would

would have been an offence to her delicacy, and added to the anguish of his own feelings; he took her hand in silence, replaced her in the chair from which she had risen, and seating himself beside her addressed her thus, I come madam, to assure you once more before I leave this country, of my gratitude for all your goodness (he paused) to me and mine, of my reverence for your virtues, and my affection for your person, to endow you with an old man's blessing, and to tell you I shall pray for your happiness as fervently as I pray for my own salvation—again he paused. Mrs. Edwin, unable to conceal her emotion, sobbed aloud; this must not be, my dear child, said he, rising and retreating from her, this must not be, his voice faltered, then resuming his place, and pressing one of her hands between his, spare me, added he, spare yourself, my own sorrows I can scarce support, your's will overwhelm me—I will, I will; she tried to proceed but utterance was denied her.

You will reconcile yourself to the necessity of a separation from which there is no appeal; dear child of my heart use your endeavours and success will crown them; commission me to tell the sad companion of my voyage that you still honor him with your generous friendship, but that you are also resigned to his departure; in granting me this request you insure as much felicity to him as he is now capable of receiving.

Mrs. Edwin faintly replied, Say any thing, every thing for me, that you, my father, may suppose will meliorate his afflictions. But tell me, sir, did you make me this kind visit at Henry's request.

I did.

And shall I never see him more.

In a better world I hope we shall all meet,

meet, never to part again, I will not flatter you my beloved daughter, the late attack of sickness on his shattered frame has, I believe, very much shortened his way to eternity, where, without presuming on the mercy of Divine Providence, I am permitted to expect he will receive a gracious pardon for all his errors, and a glorious reward for his resignation in this life of the most exalted earthly happiness that any man could aspire to.

Oh! Dr. Harvey you wound and you heal, you kill my hopes, but your approbation revives my fortitude, if I would preserve it we must part now; she rose from her chair, the good old man with tears rolling down his venerable cheeks, started from his, he opened his arms, she threw herself into them, God bless you, God bless you, were the only words either could pronounce; Mrs. Edwin retired to her apartment, and Dr. Harvey having

followed her with his eyes, when he could see her no longer, hastened home to his darling son, to whom he gave so satisfactory an account of his interview, that Henry rested tolerably well that night, and the next morning, with more composure than might have been expected, he left the place of his nativity, perhaps for ever.

At the same time that the two gentlemen began their journey towards Dover, Mrs. Edwin, to whom her own residence was now become insupportable, stepped into the travelling chaise, and ordered herself to be conveyed to her sister Dormer's, in whose kindness, and the endearing attentions of Emely, she expected consolation, and of course was not disappointed.

And now we shall take our farewell, at least for the present, of them and of

the country, acquainting our readers we are ready to set out again from whence we came, and hoping if they have found nothing to displease them in their short excursion, they will permit us the honor of re-conducting them to the Great City; where, on our part, we promise to set them down time enough for the *tête à tête* between Lady Dorothy and her nephew, which by appointment was to commence at five in the afternoon; and be it also remembered that her Ladyship has promised to serve up in private, for his particular entertainment, a hash of anecdotes, composed of the family secrets of his Grace the Duke of Angrave, the Most Noble the Marquis of Greendale, and of the young lady, who it was sometimes supposed he would, and sometimes that he would not, marry; now this hash that we speak of has an advantage over all other dishes; we defy a legion of cooks in consultation to invent a composition that will please every body, but a hash

of anecdotes is certainly possessed of that admirable quality; all the sons and daughters of Adam have a relish for it, some swallow it with moderation, others devour it, and can hardly be said to live on any thing else, no portion of it is too much for the consumer, the appetite never fatiates, and it is lighter of digestion than Dunstable larks or water gruel. To give our readers a peep into this dish in the act of cooking it up for private use, we have whipped up our steeds with such success that they are already in Grosvenor-Square, ten minutes before the business is expected to begin, a short respite between the conclusion of one chapter and the commencement of another.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIII.

LADY Dorothy Petting was standing at her drawing-room window, looking out with impatience to watch the approach of her nephew's chariot, or vis-a-vis, when her sight was shocked by a hackney-coach stopping at the door of her house, from behind which a servant in her own family livery descended, and loudly announced the visitor to be of more importance than his equipage bespoke. Her Ladyship had retired from the window in disgust, and, pulling the bell with violence, was giving orders, that whoever came in that plebe-

ian carriage was not to be admitted, when Colonel Fairfax, whose manly countenance at once portrayed dignity, humanity, resolution, good-humour, and humility, entered the room, and taking Lady Dorothy's hand, with an air of irresistible affection, inquired so tenderly after her health, that, though now convinced he was the person who had presumed to visit her in a hackney coach, pleasure, not unmixed with pride, superceded the rage of mortified vanity, and giving him a reception perfectly cordial, she congratulated herself that the most accomplished being in the world was so nearly allied to her.

I hope, said the Colonel, looking at his watch, I have given your Ladyship no cause to reproach me with a breach of duty to your commands.

I believe, Sir, replied Lady Dorothy, smiling upon him as fondly as she could have

have done on Pompey or Spider, you will never give me cause to reproach you on any occasion; but, indeed, child, I was very sorry to see you come in a hackney coach. Pray, how happened it? Is your own carriage gone to repair? If it is, I beg in future you will order one of mine to attend you.

My dear Madam, returned the Colonel, I feel the impropriety of which I have been guilty: I beg pardon. I should have walked to Grosvenor-Square, but that the rain prevented me; and if I again find myself in the same situation, I shall certainly profit by your goodness.

Her Ladyship interrupted him, by observing he evaded her question. Surely, nephew, added she, it is impossible you can be without a carriage in town.

As possible, replied the Colonel, gaily, as it is impossible I should find the means to support one. My dear aunt, consider I am but a lieutenant-colonel, and if I would live like a gentleman, I must not spend like a prince. When the king honours me with the command of a regiment I shall think myself intitled, by the laws of prudence, to this appendage of fortune; your Ladyship shall then direct the choice of my equipage, and the world will forget that it is my first exhibition in their admiration of its taste and elegance.

Lady Dorothy told him she was not a little flattered by the polite compliment paid to her taste; but added, that she always understood his grandfather, the banker, had, on his daughter's marriage with her brother, entailed a large portion of his immense riches on a male heir.

Reflection

Reflection brought to his mind the imprudence of his parents, and caused a transient blush of retrospection to deepen the glow of health that at all times animated his countenance; he assured her ladyship she had been misinformed, for that five thousand pounds was the whole of his little patrimony, but the reasons why it was so little, he gloried in concealing.

No lover ever drank deeper draughts of the fascinating passion from the eyes of his mistress, than Lady Dorothy imbibed of affection from every word that was uttered by her nephew; she looked at him, and listened to him with a sort of intoxication, to which her heart had till then been insensible; every young woman of birth, fortune, and beauty, in the endless catalogue of her acquaintance, was brought to the tribunal of her memory, for the purpose of selecting a wife for this dear nephew; after silently reviewing the merit

and pretensions of each, none but Lady Selina Dangle was thought worthy of his deservings.

It has been observed, and is even supported by an adage so well known, that it would be useless to repeat it, that to see the person appear, of whom you have been speaking, may be reckoned amongst those strange effects of sympathy, for which by the rules of common perception, there is no accounting. It is also as clear to us, though it might have passed the observation of others, that by the same undefinable sympathy, the minds of two people who are sleeping, sitting, or walking together, shall, without any sort of vocal communication, be turned to the same subject, and their thoughts occupied by the same object or objects; as one experimental instance that our observation is not entirely unfounded, we desire to produce Lady Dorothy Petting, and Lieutenant Colonel Fairfax,

Fairfax, for whilst her ladyship was contemplating with delight, how to bring about a union between him and Lady Selina, his thoughts had wandered to the same object, but not with the same views, wishes, or intentions; on the contrary, he was ruminating on the contents of the note he had seen the morning before, addressed to his aunt, and mentally bestowing his compassion on the unfortunate man who should stumble over the threshold of matrimony with so vain a coquette, and so unfeeling a daughter.

Without explaining to each other the subject of their momentary reveries, by a new stroke of all powerful sympathy, the name of Lady Selina Dangle was pronounced in the self-same moment by both the parties, but being too well bred to speak both at once, the Colonel apologized, and would have retired from what he was going to say, had not the lady insisted on his

his proceeding, in hopes that he would drop something in his conversation that would favor her future plan of operations.

I only meant, said the Colonel, to ask your ladyship, if Lady Selina had not received and accepted the addresses of Lord Portland, and to put you in mind of your promise, to tell me something more of her brother, in whose situation I really interest myself; he does not seem a bad young man from inclination, yet his actions have been so reprehensible, that his best friends, I fear, cannot acquit him of misconduct.

Dear Charles, make yourself quite easy about Lord Portland, he has no earthly attachment to Lady Selina.

And for a heavenly one, replied he, laughing, I imagine her ladyship is in no sort of forwardness, I assure you the
command

command you honor me with is already obeyed.

I am glad of it, for it is a great disadvantage to young ladies, particularly of her beauty and splendid agremens, that the world should bring out reports of this nature, where there is no foundation; she honors me with her confidence, she is the most artless creature that ever existed, she tells me of all her lovers, and had Lord Portland been one of them, I must have heard it from herself; why it was she, as I hinted to you yesterday, that let me into all that terrible affair about her brother, and how charmingly she and Lady Margaret had managed to bring about a sort of reconciliation between their exasperated father and the Marquis.

I feel myself impatient, said the Colonel, to gain a clearer insight into that mysterious matter than I have been able to obtain

obtain since my return to England; it is the general topic of conversation, yet seems to be so very little understood, that I cannot help thinking the talkers may be compared to a number of blind people, trying to lead each other through a path abounding with intricate turnings, windings, and entanglements.

Your simile is a good one, replied Lady Dorothy, and when I have told you all that I know of the matter, I verily believe it may yet stand without alteration; to own the truth, though I draw my intelligence from the fountain head, Lady Selina herself being my informer, I do not half understand the story; however, all that I know of it, under the restriction of secrecy, I will tell you without reserve; the Colonel promised inviolable silence, and what follows, is the substance of her little history.

When

When the Marquis of Greendale was in a state of almost actual childhood, not what is termed infancy in the Court of Chancery, his parents, with the approbation of the young lady's guardians, for she was an orphan, had contracted him to Miss Palmerton, who had but just escaped from her cradle, possessed of a fortune immense in its present state, with fourteen years of accumulation in perspective; the ceremony was as binding as it could be made, consistent with the age of the contracting parties; the father and guardians exchanging bonds, that the engagement should be compleated when the Marquis had finished his education, and arrived at what is erroneously called the years of discretion, and till that time it was agreed by all who were concerned in the transaction, to keep it private, with this only exception, that the little bride and bridegroom, as they grew in stature, and increased in understanding, should be made acquainted with their situation,

situation, to prevent their forming any other connections, to the prejudice of those which had been so prudently provided for them.

Lady Dorothy said, that at eighteen, Lord Greendale was one of the most accomplished youths she had ever seen, his person handsome, his manners admired, and his character approved; he had long been informed of the engagement entered into by his parents, and had testified no repugnance to the alliance; he visited Miss Palmerton with his family, yet refused to see her but in their presence; his politeness was more pointed towards her than to other ladies, without bearing any resemblance to tenderness, or even preference, whilst her approaches to him were marked with that sort of expression, that plainly indicated her inclinations would suffer no violence in ratifying the

the engagements entered into by her guardians.

So far, continued her ladyship, is easy enough to be understood, but what follows, is almost incomprehensible; a few months before he commenced his travels, he asked his father's permission to pass a few weeks with the private governor, who had attended him through Westminster school: Doctor Pladlow lives somewhere in Staffordshire, and is esteemed a very worthy clergyman. On the Marquis's return from this visit, Lady Selina protested she could hardly discover a single traite in his manner, by which she could distinguish her brother. If before this visit he had a foible, it was that of a passion for dress, which was displayed rather by a shewy, than elegant taste in the choice of his cloaths; a few short weeks had created him a sloven; he wore the same sort of finery, but he did not care how he wore it;

his

his coat was buttoned over his waistcoat, his ruffles tucked under his sleeves, his stockings loose upon his legs, and his hair hanging about his face, half combed, half curled, and half powdered. Hitherto he had never belonged to a club, he was now a member of no less than five; play he had always declared was his aversion, night after night was now passed at a gaming table, and in less than a month he had left behind him twenty one thousand pounds; his wife father foresaw, that even the fortune of his elected wife would not for ever support the extravagant turn his inclinations had taken, and hurried on the preparations for his going to the continent, whether he insisted Doctor Pladlow should attend him, or that he would not leave England at all, but content himself with finishing his education where it was begun.

The Duke, who began to tremble for his own authority, readily came in to what-
ever

ever his son proposed, and the doctor was summoned to town, to take the charge of his once docile, but now refractory pupil. It was not without much difficulty that he was prevailed upon to make one visit to his intended before he sat out; Lady Selina accompanied him twenty miles out of town, to the house of Miss Palmerton's guardian; he did not bestow on the disappointed girl one look of kindness, the whole time they stayed, which was little more than an hour, though he swore it was the longest day and night he had ever passed in his life, the only words he addressed to her were, how do ye do? when he first came into the room; and I hope to find you well on my return, when he went away; and yet on his father's questioning him on the subject, he assured his Grace he was quite determined to fulfil his engagement, as soon as he had compleated his tour; was ever any thing so odd, said Lady Dorothy, interrupting herself, however,

ever, what I have yet to tell you, is still more ridiculous, but we fear poor Lady Dorothy will talk herself to death, if we do not lay a gentle restraint on her volubility, by putting an end to the chapter.

was intended before he set out; Lady Se-
him accompanied him twenty miles out of
town, to the house of Miss Palmerston's
guardian; he did not bestow on the disap-
pointed girl one look of kindness, the
whole time they stayed, which was just
more than an hour, though he swore it
was the longest day and night he had ever
passed in his life; the only words he addre-
sed to her were, how do you do? which he thrust
came into the room, and I hope to find
you well on my return, when he went
away, and yet on his father's questioning
him on the subject, he refused to say he
was quite determined to fulfil his engage-
ment, as soon as he had completed his
tour; was ever any thing so odd, said
CHAP. I.

C H A P. XXIV.

COLONEL Fairfax was all attention; there was something in the tale that affected him, and it was not told ungracefully; he had seen the Marquis at Rome, but he had heard still more than he had seen of him, and that not to his advantage; under all these unfavourable circumstances, he had secured a sort of advocate in the breast of our hero; he had admired, condemned, pitied, and almost loved him, and when informed of the misjudging kindness which had deprived him of a free choice, which is the natural inheritance of man,

man, and that he had been bound in chains before he could know the blessing of freedom; he commiserated the unhappy victim, and execrated the parents who had enthralled him; he eagerly intreated Lady Dorothy to proceed, whose impatience to speak, was not inferior to his desire of hearing.

Lady Selina informed me, that before her brother quitted Paris, he had written a very extraordinary letter to his father from thence, desiring to have his allowance doubled, for as so much had been sacrificed of his happiness to the attainment of riches and every other enjoyment, now out of his reach, he was determined to let nothing that assumed the form of pleasure, escape his participation, that money could procure. The Duke was thunderstruck at this demand, and the manner in which it was made, but as he did not mention that he had any design of breaking with Miss Palmerton,

Palmerston, it was at length acceded to, and eight, instead of four thousand pounds a year, was from that time the Marquis's establishment.

For the succeeding twelve months, the family correspondence consisted of reproaches from the father, advice from the mother, news from the sisters; and from his lordship, seldom more than six lines, to signify that he was alive; sometimes in the French, sometimes the German, and sometimes in the Pope's dominions.

The letters from Doctor Pladlow to the Duke, were more full of information, but not of a satisfactory import; he assured his grace, that Lord Greendale's health was not impaired, which he imputed rather to an excellent constitution, than to any care his Lordship bestowed on its preservation; he would speak of the admiration he inspired, and the respect that was shewn

to him in every court he had visited ; but in the next sentence, the expression of an ardent wish that the time was come, when his Grace would think it proper to recall him, implied, that all was not right in the conduct of his pupil.

Besides these alarming hints from his tutor, the Duke received other, and much plainer statements of his son's proceedings, from different people in different countries, who he had employed in the double capacity of inspectors and informers, inasmuch, that his patience would have been quite exhausted, but for the perspective view of completing the marriage with Miss Palmerston. She, poor girl, had not shewn herself in public since his departure, but waited his return with that sort of contented apathy, which has not its origin in sensibility, or is related to fortitude.

When

When the Marquis had been absent eighteen months, a report got into our circles, brought over by nobody could tell who, that Lord Greendale had been in the very act of marriage with a young English lady, but that the ceremony met a seasonable interruption by the appearance of his governor, who had parted the lovers, and immediately after spirited away the intended bride, so that it was uncertain what was become of her.

I was in the neighbourhood of Rome, said the Colonel, at the time this affair happened, where the particulars were related nearly as your Ladyship has recounted them; but it was also assuredly true, that the governor disappeared at the same time with the lady, and it was pretty generally believed, there was a rivalry between him and his pupil.

D: 2

I do

I do not know how that may be, returned Lady Dorothy, the whole is still such a mystery, as even Lady Selina herself cannot unravel; she says her father was like a madman, when by chance he somehow or other happened to hear an imperfect part of the story, and the attempt only, though it had been a fruitless one, drove him almost to desperation; but when Doctor Pladlow arrived at his house without the Marquis, which happened in a few hours after his Grace first heard the account, he was so agitated as to alarm the family for his life; he was put to bed and bled copiously, and the moment he was enough recovered to hear and speak, the governor was ordered to attend him in his chamber, where they remained shut up together till three in the morning, after which, taking a short refreshment, Doctor Pladlow left the house, and as it was afterwards understood, immediately sat off for Dover, on his way back to Italy.

From

From this time the Duke observed towards his family the profoundest silence, as to every thing that regarded his son; he had several meetings with the guardians of Miss Palmerston, and whatever passed on those occasions, it appeared they were satisfied, no effort being made to annul the contract between Lord Green-dale and their ward.

About this time, continued Lady Dorothy, the Dutchess of Angrave died of the small-pox, and my friend Lady Selina succeeded to the management of her father's house; and since the mourning has been laid aside, nothing in the world was ever half so brilliant as her Ladyship's fetes, balls, and suppers; indeed, Charles, you must adore her, she is the very divinity of fashion, and the soul of pleasure.

Any other time, my dear madam, eagerly, replied the Colonel, talk to me

of pleasure and Lady Selina ; at present, all my thoughts are occupied by the distresses of her brother, and I torment myself with apprehension, that your company will arrive and interrupt your narrative before you have brought it to a conclusion.

To that I am almost arrived, said Lady Dorothy ; the Marquis has been returned eight months, but we do not any of us know what is become of the governor ; it is supposed they parted at Dover, for it is certain they landed together ; the Duke would not admit Lord Greendale into his presence for eight days after his arrival from abroad, all which time his sisters, Lady Margaret and Lady Selina, never suffered him to rest day or night, till they had teized him into a compliance with the only conditions his Grace would accept, that of an immediate application to the guardians of Miss Palmerston, either personally

nally or by letter, for their consents to conclude the marriage between that lady and himself; Lady Selina says he wept bitterly, but was forced to submit, so now it is mighty well with all parties, except that he has three times found the way to protract the day of his espousals, which has been named as often; first he had a fever, which kept him in bed a fortnight; secondly, he fell from his horse, and got a bruise in his elbow, and three weeks ago, the very day before his marriage was to have been solemnized, he went out to shoot with his friend, who was so inconsiderate as to let his piece go off in climbing a gate, and to lodge its contents in his Lordship's shoulder; the shot, it seems, was remarkably small, so that no danger was apprehended; he has, however, since the accident, been confined to his chamber, and how much longer he may chuse to be confined, I believe nobody knows but himself.

Lady Dorothy having ended her recital and received the thanks of her nephew for the trouble she had taken, begged his leave of absence for five minutes, whilst she just stepped to the adjoining room, to look in upon her Persian cat, who had taken medicine, and if she did not herself enquire into those consequential affairs, her servants would very possibly omit to attend him; all that a man could say or do in such a predicament, was said and done by the Colonel, who having risen from his seat and opened the door through which she was to pass, continued walking about the room, meditating on the wretched situation to which the avarice of his father had reduced Lord Greendale, commiserating the necessity he was under to abandon the woman he loved; but still more, that miserable destiny, by which he was compelled to unite himself to the object of his aversion which too plainly was the case, and in forming plans

plans of ripening the acquaintance he had began with him in Rome, into that sort of confidential friendship, the offices of which must be consolatory, and may be useful to the unhappy.

With this view, and from no other cause, he determined to pay his court to Lady Selina, at least as much of it as would gain him a card for her assemblies, and a favorable introduction to the renewed notice of her brother; with these ideas being arranged and determined on, he was glad to hear the arrival of company announced, supposing it might be Lady Selina, herself, he went to the window and saw, getting out of a no very respectable looking coach, not even dignified with the insignia of quality, a lady, more remarkable for the quantity of rouge blazoned on her round full face, than for any thing of youth or beauty that he could distinguish, in the glance he caught of her as she descended the steps of her carriage; he was sure it

was not Lady Selina, but whoever it might be, he heartily wished Lady Dorothy and her Persian cat would tear themselves from each other, that she might be in time to receive her blooming guest, and not leave him to make her apologies. Though at all times graceful, he was never assuming, and though he possessed spirit he wanted effrontery; he first tapped at the door that divided him from his aunt, then half opening it, he begged, for heaven's sake, she would come out and receive the lady who was coming up stairs.

Lord, child, what do you ask, said she, Sultan is fallen asleep in my lap, and I could not rise if the Queen was coming up, however don't trouble yourself, it is only Lady Charlotte Ogle, and you may send her to me, she is the best creature in the world, and Sultan will be quite happy to see her when he awakens—there was time for no more, Lady Charlotte Ogle

Ogle was announced, the Colonel had burst into a fit of laughing which was not in his power to suppress, at the ridiculous answer Lady Dorothy returned to his petition; Lady Charlotte had flounced into the drawing-room with all the easy nonchalance that distinguishes people of high rank from those of an inferior class, more than the richness of their dress, the elegance of their accomplishments, or the purity of their morals.

Seeing an Adonis where she expected merely an old figure, and that a female one, surprise made her retire a few steps, and admiration fixed her to the spot; by an extraordinary effort of good breeding, and a wonderful command over his countenance, Colonel Fairfax so far got the better of his risible emotions, as not only to make her Ladyship the most enchanting bow that ever was seen, but even to deliver Lady Dorothy's request, that she would join her in the next room.

And pray, sir, do you know, said she, what her Ladyship wants of me in the next room, I had much rather stay where I am, fixing her eyes upon him as she spoke, with such a look as he had never seen expressed in the most finished pictures of a penitent Magdalen.

When she put this question of what she was to do in the next room, the office assigned her there struck the Colonel so forcibly, that unable any longer to preserve his seriousness, he replied, laughing immoderately, I believe madam my aunt hopes for the honor of your assistance to nurse and comfort Sultan, who I understand has taken medicine, by the advice I suppose of his physicians.

You must come with me then, said she, freely and gaily, if I am Sultan's nurse you shall be my assistant. You may perceive, sir, I am not a person of great ce-

remony, but you say, Lady Dorothy is your aunt, Colonel Fairfax, I presume?

The same, madam, at your Ladyship's service.

Well then, Colonel, we must by and bye be better acquainted, I have such a passion for your aunt, who is certainly the very first of women, that any part of her family I shall always regard as the nearest and dearest of my friends.

He bowed again, and we had almost said blushed, but if he did blush it was not on his own account, perhaps he thought, when modesty was banished from one sex, it ought to find a refuge in the other.

The little chit that we have been repeating was hurried over in their passage from one door to the other, but before they

they reached that which would have led them to Lady Dorothy, another thundering call on the Porter stopped their progress, and produced that effect on the mistress of Sultan, which she had declared the august presence of Majesty would not have produced—namely, she resigned her Persian cat to the care of her women, and came out to receive Lady Selina Dangle, on whom her views for the establishment of her nephew, we have already hinted, were of a very extensive nature; her reception of Lady Charlotte was of that short but affectionate kind, which seems to say, I love you so well that I do not care a farthing for you.

She asked if she would not look in upon Sultan, adding, poor dear, he has been very unwell; hastily and slightly presented the Colonel to her, then advanced to meet Lady Selina, who that moment exhibited her really very beautiful person, but from which we must acknowledge she had contrived

trived to separate all grace, by a very awkward motion of the knees, the fashionable substitute of a courtesey, something between a hop and a bend.

We should think it an insult on the penetration of our readers, if we were to inform them that nothing of warmth or respect was wanting in Lady Dorothy's approaches to the daughter of his Grace of Angrave, or any thing that could be flattering to the merit of her nephew, omitted in her presentation of him to her imaginary niece elect.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVII.

WHILST the three ladies amused themselves on subjects which none but a professed man milliner could have joined in, without the hazard of exposing his want of knowledge; our Colonel, who was a second Lavater in the science of physiognomy, and had studied it with almost infallible success, was otherwise employed. When the eyes of the two younger ladies did not wander from the celebrated Mrs. Boovie's performance, of a cap or a trimming to fetch or carry a fly glance of approbation to themselves,

or

or from themselves, his was taking a survey of their faces, not with the warm partiality of a lover, but the cold deliberation of a philosopher; nor like a fool, who buys a house because it looks well on the outside, but rather as a man of sound judgment, that will make himself sure all is right and tight within before he becomes the purchaser.

In the short conversation that had passed between him and Lady Charlotte, but more in the confidant stare of two dark eyes, where spirit, reigned unmellowed by feminine softness, as well as by the daubings with which the depredations of time were tolerably concealed, he discovered that her mind had suffered more dilapidations than could ever be repaired, and therefore fixed his attention wholly on Lady Selina.

The figure of Lady Selina Dangle was
that

that of a nymph, such as poets represent them to our imagination, her waist and limbs so delicately small, and so lightly joined, that like the swift Camelion, her footsteps may be supposed to leave no traces on the unbending grass, her height something above mediocrity, appeared still more tall from the length and smallness of a very white neck, which united to her falling shoulders, the face of a Hebe, so far only as it is expressive of youth, but if the face of Hebe is also to convey the idea of sensibility, or artless simplicity, we shall find ourselves at a fault, and the comparison must drop from the want of materials to support it. On a first view of Lady Selina, if Colonel Fairfax had found nothing to adore in the *tout ensemble* of her countenance, he had also seen nothing to condemn, her skin was exceedingly fair, *sans* colour, her features small, *sans* character, her eyes blue and well cut, but in plain English, without

without animation, though they spoke a sort of language, which in the translator's opinion, could not be rendered into any expression of philanthropy or candour, and on a stricter examination of her features by his favorite rules, there was something very much amiss, which might not have been visible to any body but a physiognomist, in that part of the forehead where the eyebrows are united, and the bottom of her pretty little nose was left too much exposed by the drawing up of her nostrils, to leave on his mind any more favorable impression of her disposition than he had before formed by his other observations of her constitutional propensities.

Lady Dorothy had told him that Lady Selina was natural and unaffected; to a man of his talents, who, we do not scruple to say, had from experience acquired a competent knowledge of the sex, it did not afford a very difficult research to discover

cover that she affected to be natural, and that what appeared artlessness in her manners was the very quintessence of art; he smiled at his aunt's mistaken judgment, and said to himself, I will never take a wife of her recommending; such was his private determination, which, together with the opinion he had formed of Lady Selina Dangle, he buried deep in the recesses of his heart, and so far was he from omitting through the course of the day any of those nameless attentions, which every pretty woman has a right to expect, and every plain woman does expect from a man of gallantry, that her Ladyship thought him almost divine, and Lady Dorothy, that her views were more than half completed.

Before they adjourned to the eating-room, their party was increased by the arrival of the Dowager Countess of Watchet, Lady Augusta Drawl, Lord Marsham,

Marshall, Count Bertain, *Charges des Affaires* of France, and a Maccaroni son of the church, descended from a noble but needy family, and a great favorite of Lady Dorothy.—As we find there is sufficient time before the second bell has rung, we shall introduce to our readers those who have not already passed the forms of presentation.

Little is to be said of Lady Watchet, except that fifty years ago she had been celebrated for her beauty, but that now, instead of being talked to death about her, you was talked to death by her, her acquaintance, had long been tired out by one everlasting subject. The charms of Lady Augusta, the fortune of Lady Augusta, the lovers of Lady Augusta, and the delicacy of Lady Augusta, was sure to cross every other conversation, however interesting, but as on Lady Augusta's account they could not decently leave her Ladyship out

out of their gay parties, it became quite the ton, never to attend to what she said, or to make a reply, except a random one, merely to keep up the appearance of something like good breeding, though by no means its relation, she saw the effect, but overlooked the cause, and often lamented the want of attention in the present generation, which had distinguished the time in which she was young, and when by any kind chance she happened to set next a stranger, who not being in the plot listened to her, and returned her rational answers, she would thank God that politeness was not absolutely abolished from the face of the earth.

Lady Augusta Drawl, with beauty, youth, rank and fortune, to set her off, had entered her twenty-eighth year, without stepping out of her maiden state, but a sort of peevishness, that at this period gloomed upon her still lovely features, seemed

seemed to tell you she had not remained in it with her own inclinations, many lovers had sighed for her person, and many more for her dowry, but because no one had yet appeared, who in himself singly possessed quite as many graces of nature, and gifts of fortune, as would decently serve to fit out a score of drawing room dancers and opera loungers, she passed by all that had offered, and waited from nineteen to twenty-five in hopes her patience would be at last rewarded with a capture of consequence, at the end of that time she began to see her error, but it was too late to retrieve it, to say truth it was impossible she should inspire a very lively passion in the heart of any man, if a man is insensible he cannot be ardent, and if he is ardent he cannot be in love with a mistress who is insipidity personified.

Something has already been said of Lord Marsham, and of his connexion with
Lady

Lady Charlotte Ogle, we have only here to add, that he was what the town calls one of the fine men, he played at White's, ran at Newmarket, danced at Almack's; honest, good humoured, entertaining, never deaf to the distresses of his fellow creatures, and determined to fall in love with every new face that came in his way.

Count Bertain had resided some years in this country, and spoke the language very fluently, his age was about forty, his person handsome, his manners pleasing, and his understanding more solid than brilliant; Madame his wife was recovering from an indisposition, which had given him an addition to his family, the tenderness of his countenance, and the expressive tones of his voice when he answered Lady Dorothy's enquiries for the Countess and the Infant, made you understand that his wife was amiable and himself happy.

It

It would have accorded well with propriety had it been in our power to have exchanged situations one for another, then would we have presented the Frenchman in the character of the Priest, and the Priest in that of the Frenchman; there was no harm in the Reverend Mr. Fortherton, except that he was nothing which he ought to have been, he should have been sedate and silent, but was volatile and voluble, he should have been humble and modest, but was assuming and pert, he should have been a gentleman, but he was a coxcomb.

When all this illustrious party assembled at the dinner table, Lady Dorothy placed Lady Selina by herself, and having looked on our Colonel to fill the place next her Ladyship, she observed he was giving way to Lord Marham, who she requested would be so good to let her nephew occupy that seat, as she wished for his as-

sistance in carving, and could not think of being troublesome to his Lordship; Lord Marham had seen through to the very bottom of her real motive, with a good humoured smile insisted on resigning it to the Colonel, and placed himself between Lady Augusta and Lady Charlotte, and the other arrangements settled of course; a proof now followed that a blessing may be in our reach and not alight on our head, for when Lady Selina, with an air of arch ridicule, asked the pretty Divine if they were not to have a grace, he assured her it was voted a bore at every table of consequence, except the Bishops and Archbishops, and even there was seldom attended to, as every body knew it was a mere matter of form—the ladies all gave him credit for his good breeding, but Lady Selina begged an exception might be allowed in favor of the Catch-Club grace, which must not be called a bore in her presence, for the music to
which

which it was set was the object of her idolatry — there was not one dissenting voice on this occasion, and his holiness complimented her ladyship, by assuring her that he thought so highly and so much of the charming composition that he had caught himself humming it in the pulpit, and had disturbed people who lodged near him by singing it in his sleep. The remainder of the conversation which passed at dinner might have afforded some entertainment to our readers, if we could have found any possible means of arranging it, but for want of a capacity to take down in short hand all that is said by nine people, five of the number females and all speaking at the same time, we must let that alone, and can only venture to tell you what they were talking about, every one to their neighbour—Lady Dorothy talked of an extraordinary blue dog that had been promised her by the Abicinian traveller; Lady Selina of a grand fete

to be given on her brother's marriage; the Countess Dowager of her ducats, and her daughter, Lady Augusta, of her aversion to the dissipation of a town life, and her passion for rural pleasures; Lady Charlotte of her ill luck at play, and the extreme poverty of her condition; Lord Marsham of Newmarket; the Count of politics; Colonel Fairfax of love; and the Parson of himself.

It was nine o'clock before any motion was made by the ladies to withdraw, and at ten the gentlemen joined them in the drawing room, by which time some invalid and some unfashionable stragglers, who were to form part of her Ladyship's assembly, had arrived, notwithstanding it was pretty generally understood she never chose to receive company till eleven. Lord Marsham had taken himself off without coming up stairs, and the Divine with him, who had requested his Lordship to set him down

down at Gloucester house, where he had the honor of being expected to make up her Royal Highness's loo party.

Colonel Fairfax, on entering the reception room, had, to the great joy of his aunt, gone immediately up to Lady Selina, and finding no vacant chair near her's, he had retired behind that in which she was sitting, and exhibited perhaps one of the most graceful manly figures that this or any other country ever boasted. Lady Selina's fan by accident or by design had dropped from her hand at his approach, he had taken it from the carpet and retained it in his own, but with a certain absent air, that had in it more of inattention to what he was about, than of gallantry to the fair one, whose property it was, which really was the case, for whilst her delighted Ladyship was firing her whole artillery of charms and small talk

against him, he was planing to renew the conversation of the fete she had mentioned at table, to get himself invited, and hear more of her brother. If he succeeded or not, may be found in the next chapter.

C H A P. XXVI.

LORD! Colonel Fairfax, said Lady Selina, in a half whisper, look, I beseech you, at Lady Augusta Drawl, as she speaks to Sir James Matindroff; he is one of her discarded lovers, one that she would train back, if she could, I would give something to know what she is talking about, I dare say it is naughty London and dear rural felicity; she rails till she is breathless against the one from which she never absents herself, and dies away in ecstasies for the other, which she never pursues; she is the most affected of all God's creatures;

you can't guess how I detest affectation, don't you think it odious; nay, I am sure you must, for I never knew a man of sense that could endure it.

The Colonel's reply cannot merit a place in our history, because by the laws of politeness, of which he was a strict observer, it must have coincided exactly with her Ladyship's question. Do you know, continued she, that once she took it into her head to be in love with my brother; I was quite glad when he went abroad, for till then I was tormented to death with her visits; by the bye, when I send you a card for the nuptial feast, you must not return an excuse.

He thanked her for the honor she did him, and added an assurance, that no other claim but those of fate and his country, should supercede his obedience to her commands;

commands; he then asked when he might expect to receive them.

Perhaps next week, replied she, but indeed there is no certainty of any thing in this life; the day for the wedding has already been fixed three times, and may be repeated as often; George always contrives that something or other shall happen to prevent it; he had a cold, which he chose to call a fever; he threw himself off his horse, and said it was a tumble, and now he is confined by the going off of a fowling piece, which in my conscience I believe his friend Rattle of the guards never discharged at his shoulder, without the previous command from his Lordship so to do.

Colonel Fairfax was petrified with astonishment at the little ceremony, and less feeling, with which she could sport on her brother's misfortunes; for whither

the accidents that had retarded his marriage, were real or pretended, it was of small consequence to the tender pleadings of a sister's love; had they been real, her manner of reciting them was preposterous, but alas! were they only a resource, the last sad subterfuge to avoid a hated union, how much more indefensible her levity, where the very occasion would have justified her affectionate sympathy and gentle commiseration; but of this his silent opinion nothing transpired that could wound her Ladyship's self-approbation, and thereby lessen the Colonel's claim to her good graces; he only replied to the hints she had given of her brother's disinclination to compleat his marriage; that he thought it was particularly unfortunate, in a connection so consequential to the happiness or misery of both parties, either should admit a sentiment of indifference for the state they have chosen to enter.

Heavens!

Heavens ! exclaimed Lady Selina, laughing, how little you understand of our family affairs, I thought all the town had known them ; my brother has no repugnance to the state itself, that ever I heard him declare, he only hates the person who is to be his mate, on the voyage of matrimony.

Why then, may I presume to ask your Ladyship, did Lord Greendale make choice of her for a companion.

Lord, sir, he never made choice of her at all, he was not even consulted about the matter, the old people made the bargain, and the young ones are forced to ratify it.

Hard fate, said the Colonel, would you not think it so, Lady Selina, if it was your own ?

Why, to put myself in his situation, I should be content enough with Miss Palmerston, and her immense treasures, provided I did not hate her above half as much as he does; but she is so very much his aversion, that I really do pity him; you must know we are the greatest friends in the world, and I often tell him how happy he will be, if he is not a fool; though I do not like Miss Palmerston, who is a mere poppet, I always praise her to him, that he may feel a little comfortable, and when he storms, I laugh to give him spirits.

And has it the effect?

I really don't know, for when he is in his mad fits, I do not stay to see him get out of them.

Their *tête à tête* was here interrupted by Lady Dorothy setting them both down at a whist table, and to her great satisfaction, she

she saw them cut together, which she regarded as the omen of a more lasting partnership; it was late when the rooms were cleared of company; Lady Selina was not the first to withdraw; Colonel Fairfax lead her to her carriage, received a very gracious invitation to her first party, and was conveyed to his lodgings in his aunt's chariot, which she had ordered to be in constant waiting on him till further orders.

Whilst our Colonel, in the five days that is yet to elapse before the arrival of Mrs. Edwin and her fair friend in town, is devoting himself in obedience to the commands of Lady Dorothy, to all her parties, whither at home or abroad, and is receiving many marks of her bounty, as well as of her approbation, we shall take the opportunity of bringing our readers acquainted with his uncle the Earl Delborough, of whom little has been said in this history, but that there was such a man, and that
he

he had been instrumental in procuring, by his interest, for the son of his brother, the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; he had not done this good deed because he loved the memory of his brother, or from any personal liking to the young man; his brother he had injured, and for that single reason would not forgive him when living, or bear to hear him spoken of when dead; and as to the orphan children, he never had seen them, or ever desired to see them; but at that time a severe fever having left behind it an alarming hectic, that appeared to threaten the life of Lord Haverville, the probability there was of his nephew succeeding to the family honors, made him turn his attention towards securing for him that distinction in the line of his profession, which would make easy his progression to the peerage; and he also supposed that the former neglect he had shewn to himself, and his father, would be forgotten, or at least concealed, under his present kindness;

ness; this patronage, however, extended no farther than the commission, and ended in the re-establishment of Lord Haver-ville's health.

It is a difficult undertaking to hold the scales of justice with an even hand, when a character so complicated as that of Lord Delborough, is to be weighed in them; a few good qualities, when over-balanced by a number of evil propensities, seldom gain our credit, and never our applause; it is wrong, but it is the way of the world, there is no more reason why it should be so, than that a very poor man, because he is very poor, should have the little he does possess, taken away from him; to shew that our theory and our practice go together, whilst we are exposing his Lordship's many defects, we shall make a point of not concealing his few perfections.

Avarice,

Avarice, pride, and obstinacy were the three roots of evil from which had sprung all the bad actions that had sullied the character of Lord Delborough; his avarice was alarmed when his brother chose to become the master and manager of his own fortune; his pride was offended when he married the banker's daughter, and his obstinacy would never let him forgive the one, or forget the other; avarice and pride were the only passions he consulted in the choice of a wife, and obstinacy had made him a surly and unpleasant husband, for the short time she remained in her state of pilgrimage, which was no longer than till she had given birth to Lord Haverville, eleven months after her marriage. Though the daughter of a deceased Duke, and the fortune she brought her husband very considerable, yet the extreme plainness, not to say ugliness, of her person, and an understanding no way its superior, rendered her a mere machine of passive obedience,

dience, to the arbitrary will of her lord and master.

The enlargement that should have distinguished the education of his son, avarice had contracted; the benefit and pleasure, that would have been the consequence of Lord Haverville's associating with youths better taught, but perhaps not quite so well born as himself, pride protested against, whilst obstinacy had ever prevented those little concessions, so endearing from a parent to his offspring, and blew up a blaze of contention between them, which threatened to be everlasting; however, it was at last put out, and we intend in due time to acquaint our readers, how, and by what means it was extinguished, having, in as concise a manner as possible, first added a few words to the completion of our true character. Lord Delborough, with all his faults, and all his errors, had the following recommendations; he was punctual

tual to his word, exact in the performance of his promise, not a bad master, did not grind the face of the poor, and owed no man a shilling. We shall say more, nature intended him for a philanthropist, education alone had made him a tyrant.

Lord Haverville did not inherit the scanty allotment nature had portioned out to his mother; to him she was far more bountiful, and had he been a woman, all mankind would have called him beautiful; the proportion of his figure, the delicacy of his complexion, the formation of his features, were truly feminine, so that when he was spoken of by the ladies, they always gave him the appellation of the pretty Viscount; his countenance was mild, and betrayed stronger traits of a pensive, than of a lively disposition; the deficiencies of his education, which consisted in the want of scientific knowledge, a confined acquaintance with the dead languages, and a total ignorance of the European courts,

courts, though a disadvantage to him when at any time he found himself in a circle of learned and travelled men, were no blemishes on his appearance in a lady's drawing room, or in any other mixed society; his address was by nature elegant, his air unconstrained, and his manners polished, if not graceful. He had a talent for poetry, and delighted to indulge it, and was therefore always better pleased with the six or eight months he spent with his father in the country, than to that proportion of the year which is destined to the pleasures of a town life, and less eligible amusements. As a specimen of his connection with the muses, we shall insert a bagatelle that he sent the mistress of his heart, with a boquette of wild flowers which he had gathered for the purpose. He gives her the poetical name of Laura, but the one she really bore, will hereafter appear, and make no small figure in our future pages. Before we present the verses, we beg leave to premise,

premise, that they were written at a time, when Laura was recovering from a dangerous illness.

The NOSEGAY.

At early dawn with Laura I have stray'd,
For e'en in absence, Laura's still with me ;
In every op'ning flower, her soul's pourtray'd,
In every glowing tint, her charms I see.
I've stray'd where nature like herself appears,
Untortur'd by the formal hand of art,
Where, from the fond maternal bosom rears
The unforc'd offspring of her bounteous heart ;
Where proud exotics mix not in her train,
Nature best likes to dress her children plain.
With cautious step, I saunter'd through the glade,
With eager eye, survey'd each flow'r, each stem,
Felt sad at every print my foot had made,
Crushing beneath its weight the glittering gem ;
The

The bending grafs, the dew-drop brush'd away,
Kept Laura's darling image ftill in view,
The grafs uprearing, mentally I pray,
Maid moft belov'd, may thefe refemble thee!
As quick, may Laura from her fick bed rife,
As quick, difperfe the tears from Laura's eyes.

From Nature's breaft I pluck'd a brier fweet;
Laura, for thee, the theft may be forgiven,
Still in thy bofom it will nature meet,
And 'ftead of paradife, be plac'd in heaven;
But careful let me every thorn remove,
That may the tender gentle Laura wound,
Impervious be her heart to pain, or love,
Save, when my paffion with fuccefs be crown'd;
Then, be it ever mine to guard with care
As now I do, the bofom of my fair.

A honey-fuckle near the briar grew,
Which envious of its deftin'd happy fate,
A milder fragrance round my fenfes threw,
And thus it feem'd to fay, with hope elate;

In

In Laura's nosegay let me find a place ;

What is the tow'ring sweet-briar more than I?

Or give it, the pre-eminence to grace,

And let me humbly on her bosom lye ;

Then forward bent, to tempt my ready hand,

And pleas'd, beneath the sweet-briar took its stand.

The robbinhoo, in crimson best array'd,

The varigated flow'r maids call Fox-Glove ;

And even the poppy, rais'd its sleepy head,

All claim a situation near my love ;

Could I my Laura, I, their claim refuse,

Who know, and feel, what absence is from thee?

Oh! that like them, my station I could chuse,

Close at thy lovely side I'd ever be.

Some part of this my gift dear Laura take,

And use it kindly for the giver's sake.

The lady to whom those verses were addressed, and who is therein celebrated, as the Laura of Lord Haverville, was Miss Louisa Beverly, daughter and co-heiress

heirefs of the Honorable Crawford Beverly, of Beverly Hall, in the county of Worcester; her only fister had been fome years married to Sir James Archer, and was fettled in the neighbourhood of Lord Delborough, with whom both he and his lady had the good fortune to be in very high favor.

Louifa, on the death of her father, went to refide with Sir James, and her fister, who had been left by him fole guardians to her perfon and property, the former exceedingly lovely, the latter very confiderable; her beauty was not of that electrical kind, to ftrike a man dead at her feet, but rather a combination of dignity, foftnefs, grace and modefty, that attended her movements, directed her eyes, governed her perfon, and fpread the becoming vail of diffidence over the *toute en femble*, which it was impoffible any man, from
twenty

twenty to fourscore, could behold with perfect indifference. She had suffered a severe disappointment; she had loved, and she had lost the object of her love, who died abroad, about eighteen months before the death of her father; and two such strokes falling so close upon the tenderest fibres of her heart, had brought on a dangerous sickness, and occasioned her a long confinement, immediately after she was received into the family of Sir James Archer, and before she had compleated the age of nineteen, a very early period to commence a pupil in the school of affliction!!

Lord Haverville had seen Louisa two years before she came to reside in the neighbourhood; it was when she attended her father on a visit to his married daughter, Lord Haverville's passions of the tender sort were very inflammable, and prone to burn with great violence, when

fed with the fuel of opposition, but if they found nothing of the sort to feed upon, no contradiction to his wishes, no difficulties to impede his pursuit, the flame would go out of its own accord, without any effort of his to extinguish it. At first sight he became enamoured of Miss Beverly; he consulted his father the same evening, intreated his concurrence to the views of lasting happiness he had formed in a union with her; declared he would never be the husband of any other woman, and again besought him to favor his petition, on which the felicity of his future life depended. Lord Delborough, who had felt some admiration for the lady, and saw nothing to dislike in the alliance, gave his ready assent, and promised to speak the next day to Mr. Beverly on the subject.

Notwithstanding all that we have said of the necessity there was for applying opposition, to keep alive the bright burn-

ing love that had kindled at the glance of beauty, yet on this occasion we are forced to own that Lord Haverville, who expected nothing so little as his father's approbation, in the midst of his astonishment preserved his constancy, and retained the same fervent adoration for his adorable Louisa, as he could have done if his father had commanded him, on pain of his eternal displeasure, to think of her no more ; if such was the extraordinary power of his excessive love, that it could withstand such a shock of approbation, to what a degree must it have flamed out, when in answer to Lord Delborough's application to her father, he was informed, with all due respect and gratitude, that his daughter was engaged ; here was room for contemplation even to madness, and his young romantic Lordship, who was the best actor in a scene like this that the stage of Love's Theatre ever exhibited, stormed, raved, cursed the severity of his fate,

fate, vowed vengeance on his rival, fell into sullen fits of despair, called on death to put an end to his wretched existence, shut himself up in his chamber all day, and passed his sleepless nights under the windows of his mistress, walking up and down a deck's length, and composing doleful lamentations, that might, with great propriety, have been chanted by any poor criminal at the hour of execution.

Sir James and Lady Archer, who were informed of his unfortunate attachment, and the consequences it had produced, gave him their sincere pity, but could do nothing for his relief; the gentle Louisa accused herself of being inadvertently the cause of his unhappiness, and instead of wishing to retain a place in his memory, to the prejudice of his future establishment with some other woman, she ardently hoped he would forget her intirely, when, removed at a distance from him, and with

this benevolent sentiment, in which it is very plain to see, if our fair readers do not chuse to shut their eyes, there was no tincture of conceit or vanity, she prevailed on her father to shorten his visit, which was not opposed by Sir James and his Lady, who really compassionated the case of Lord Haverville so tenderly, that there was nothing they would not have sacrificed to the restoration of his peace, but the happiness of their amiable sister.

Her absence had not the good effect Louisa expected from it, her first engagement still subsisted, and Lord Haverville's malady increased with the knowledge he contrived to gain from her own domestics, of her invariable constancy to his happy rival, at length the delicacy of his constitution gave way to the violent agitations of his distracted mind, and brought on that fever which had nearly ended him and his misfortunes together. It was

then that Lord Delborough felt that he was a father, and whilst he trembled for the life of his son, he also considered there was a deserted branch of his family, to whom it might be now necessary to shew some attention, and in this humour he wrote to the secretary at war, and other great ministers of state, and in consequence of his Lordship's strenuous application, his nephew soon after succeeded to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During the whole time of Lord Haver-ville's indisposition, and in the most critical paroxysms of his disorder, he raved incessantly on Lady Archer, and nothing but her presence would soothe or compose him; she was one of the best women in the world, and did not hesitate to comply with the urgent intreaties of his father, to dedicate some portion of her time every day to the office of consoling him; she did not bear the least likeness to her sister,

being very deficient in personal charms, with a difference in their ages of full sixteen years, but what new lights will not a lover's imagination strike out, Lord Haverville fancied he could trace out a resemblance where nobody but himself had ever perceived it, and fastening his dying eyes on her face as she sat by the side of his bed, nothing could make him withdraw them as long as she continued in his sight; she would often say to him, My Lord, I will come to you no more if I prevent your repose, by fixing your attention, pray close your eyes and try to sleep, the Doctors will banish me from your chamber when they find I have such bad success in attending you, he would sometimes try to obey her command, but with such groans as pierced her to the soul, he always insisted on her sitting close to his curtain, which he would never permit should be drawn between them, as long as she continued

being in

in the room; if ever he spoke, which was seldom, and then in a voice hardly to be understood, he would murmur out complaints against Mr. Beverly, for having engaged his daughter so very young, before she could possibly know who she could like, and before he had seen her; and once he cried out, when the good natured Lady Archer was offering him some medicine, Oh, Louisa, Louisa, why are you not here to bestow on me those tender, those compassionate proofs of mercy I receive from your sister—why must you not be my own Louisa.

At length the most dangerous of his symptoms abated; the physicians declared him out of danger, and Lady Archer retrenched from the number and length of her visits, though after his recovery she always treated his diseased heart with the skill of a philosopher, and the affection of a sister; nor did she quite so much re-

regret the loss of Louisa's first love when the intelligence reached her, as probably she would have done, had she not really believed the senses, if not the life, of Lord Haverville had no other chance of being preserved, but by a union with her sister, who, after allowing her a decent time to sorrow, was sure to find, in every letter she opened from Lady Archer, half the contents taken up with something or other relative to the pretty viscount, always in praise of him, but the word love never mentioned.

Death having unexpectedly removed the bar which had hitherto appeared insurmountable, gave his Lordship a second opportunity of proving the force of his passion, by making him act extravagantly inconsistent with what was really his nature, that Louisa was now at liberty to chuse, and that he might be the blessed object of her choice, made him quite as
frantic

frantic in his expressions of joy and exultation, as they had before been expressive of madness from disappointment and despair.

The friendship of Lady Archer was now dearer to him than ever. He flew to the Grange—he embraced her—he shook Sir James by the hand—some tears fell down his cheeks—and, in accents broken by the extremes of sensibility and joy, he told them he must now be their brother—asked their commands for Mr. Beverly, and declared he should travel post day and night till he had thrown himself at the feet of his divine, his adorable Louisa.

Lady Archer persuaded him by no means to adopt a plan, which of all others was the most certain to incur her sister's disapprobation, if not her everlasting displeasure. She even advised him not to renew the proposals with which he had

honoured her, till time had mellowed the grief that must attend the loss of him, who she had so long regarded as her destined husband. The many arguments she used in the support of her opinion were so consistent with delicacy, and so strongly enforced by reason, that, however unwillingly, Lord Haverville was obliged to submit to them; but not till her Ladyship had given him a faithful assurance to let him have an opportunity of pleading his own cause, by sending for Louisa to the Grange as soon as her spirits were enough recovered from the shock they had encountered, to give an appearance of success to their mutual wishes. From this time his Lordship put himself under her directions, and, to reward his obedience, she often read to him part of her own letters, in which he was honourably mentioned to her sister, and sometimes a paragraph out of those she received from her, either to convince him of the continuance

uance of her dejection, or to shew him that there was a prospect that the lenient hand of time would effect the cure of her deeply wounded affections.

Lord Haverville almost lived at the Grange, and his first question always was, "Have you heard to day?" And the second, "When, my dear Lady Archer, am I to see my angel? When will you send for her?" To one she would answer just as it had happened, either that she had or she had not received letters; to the other she could only reply, as she had done a thousand times before: "My dear impatient Lord, the conquest you meditate to secure, requires more leisure than you are inclined to throw away. If we hurry on matters, we shall certainly lose our aim; her heart is a prize which nobody can put you in the way of obtaining so well as I can. I will give you my best advice and assistance; but you must consent to let me

govern your movements, as to the time when it will be most prudent to forward your pretensions.

Month after month passed away; Louisa's melancholy was in no manner abated, and nothing but the hopes of conquering so rooted a love, and of possessing himself those affections, which had been so tenderly devoted to another, could have consoled his Lordship; but this was a difficulty so romantically interesting, that instead of finding his inclinations decreased by absence, his love burnt with so much fury, as once more to threaten his life, by augmenting the hectic in his constitution, which had remained after the fever left him.

Louisa had not been a widow, dear readers, though the laws do not sanctify the appellation; pray you permit us to use it, for her heart was truly a widow, having

having parted with its better half, we say then she had not been a widow more than eight months when her father was attacked by that lingering complaint, which terminated his existence, and once more, after an absence of two years, restored to the sight of the constant Lord Haverville, the idol of his soul's affection; but Lady Archer still confined him to silence on the subject of love, and on every other Louisa listened to him with complacency, and received all his endeavours to amuse her with such fascinating sweetness as spoke a grateful, if not an affectionate, sense of his unwearied assiduities.

Louisa, soon after she came to the Grange, had a severe illness, rooted less in the body than the mind; her recovery from which had happily given occasion for her lover, though as yet not a declared one, to exert his poetical talents in the verses that accompanied his present of
field

field flowers. They were first received by Lady Archer, who, charmed with the sensibility, as well as elegance of the composition, hurried away with them to her sister's apartment before she had left her bed, and, seating herself by the side of it, she presented the one, and read the other to her.

Louisa's mind was softened by sorrow, and her heart penetrable to the claims of compassion, and the demands of gratitude, she permitted her sister to talk of Lord Haverville, and the sufferings he had endured on her account. She heard her plead the cause of this steady, passionate, and unfortunate lover, with as much warmth, energy and eloquence, as if her own happiness had been the boon for which she pleaded. She thought herself incapable of entertaining a second time that sort of sentiment which disappointment had once extinguished; but the
sighs

sighs and tears, the history of his distresses drew from her, opened to Lady Archer better views for his Lordship than she had yet dared to entertain. She knew the disposition of her heart, and every avenue that lead to the treasures that were deposited in that heart. She was assured she should establish her sister's felicity by uniting her to Lord Haverville, whose constancy and affections had stood the test of time, and obstacles nearly unprecedented. She knew the almost divine temper of Louisa would insure the intire possession of her tenderest inclinations to a husband so gentle, so ardent, so devoted to her, whose attentions would never decline, whose love she imagined, from the proofs he had given of its sensibility, could never know a diminution.

Satisfied with the success of her first essay in favour of Lord Haverville, and having construed the language of her sighs and

and tears into no expressions contrary to his interest, she contented herself with the total silence observed by Louisa. During her endeavours to soften her towards him, she did not press for a verbal declaration of her opinion, or incommode her with solicitations; but left the completion of his Lordship's wishes to time, and his own assiduities, the latter of which was so followed up, and so powerfully backed by her brother, sister, and Lord Delborough, who had conceived the fondest partiality towards her; that preferring the happiness of others to her own, and grieved to remain under obligations, when it was in her power to repay them, she, with a negative kind of preference, which had in it nothing either of passion or repugnance, consented to receive the attentions of her transported lover, and to become his wife at the expiration of her mourning for her father. With this blessing in view, and not
one

one single difficulty to surmount, we shall, for the present, take our leaves of his Lordship, and return to our circle of friends in town, to see what is going on in their quarter.

CHAP. XXVII.

LADY BELLA Doughty, by way of
 announcing her brother, who she had found
 in very ill health, and worse humour, the
 morning after her arrival at the Colonel's
 residence at Lady Doughty's, was a
 judicious selection of the dinner party,
 and containing not only those who con-
 posed it, but every male and every female
 that had afterwards made up her Lady-
 ship's drawing-room whilst Lord
 Grenville sat looking his foot with a con-
 stant brow, a determined eye, and a
 can be said to have been a
 subject.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXVII.

LADY Selina Dangle, by way of amusing her brother, who she had found in very ill spirits, and worse humour, the morning after her meeting with Colonel Fairfax at Lady Dorothy's, was giving him a ludicrous description of the dinner party, and caricaturing not only those who composed it, but every male and every female that had afterwards made up her Ladyship's evening drawing-room, whilst Lord Greendale sat jogging his foot, with a contracted brow, a determined eye, and fullen aspect,

aspect, too much engaged in his own reflections to give the least attention to what she was saying; nor did he seem to know she was in the room with him, till quite out of patience she exclaimed:

Lord! how stupid you are; one may as well talk to an automaton as to a man who thinks of nothing but his troubles. Pray, George, have you heard a word of what I have been saying?

I would give the world, cried he, starting from his chair, and walking with disordered haste about his chamber, I would give my body for dissection to discover the officious devil who wrote that cursed letter!

Oh! I see you are quite possessed; an evil spirit has taken possession of you. As she said this a blush passed over her face; whether it owed its birth to fear of her brother's

brother's violence, or to what other cause, we cannot determine.

He recollected himself in a moment, and, taking a chair next to her, begged she would forgive his absence, and take the trouble to repeat what she had been saying.

For that matter, replied she, it was hardly worth your hearing: I was only laughing at a parcel of old cats, young kittens, Benedict's boys and puppies, that I met with yesterday at the Dowager dog-feeder's and tamer of wild beasts, Lady Dorothy Petting's. Upon my honour, George, there were but two decent people in the whole collection, that is to say, myself and Colonel Fairfax.

Fairfax! repeated his Lordship, if he is the same Fairfax, who I was a little known

to in Italy, I shall rejoice to renew my acquaintance with him here.

Tell me what sort of a man was your Fairfax. Did he carry a letter of recommendation in his countenance?

The strongest in the world, but I cannot talk with you now; I am thinking of a thousand other matters.

Indeed but you must, and you shall, for you are beginning to grow rational.

If I am rational, there is not in nature such a disease as madness.

Come, come, tell me, and don't bounce into your heroics. Is your Colonel Fairfax tall, well made, handsome; brown complexion, dark hair, white teeth; has he eyes like Mars, to threaten and command, yet, whenever they please, soft, charming, insinuating?

sinuating? Answer me these questions, and you shall get rid of me for the rest of the day.

Be it so; he is every thing you describe him to be. Good morrow, Selina.

Not quite yet; I hate such short-hand answers. Pray tell me, George, do you allow him to be a fine gentleman?

Do you mean a *pettit maitre*?

Oh! no, that he cannot be; for he never paid himself or me a single compliment the whole time we were together: I mean, is he fashionable? Does he belong to the clubs? In short, is he one of your set?

I have never known him in England; but his character is good every where, and,

I

I think, his manners unexceptionable. Will that satisfy you ?

Heaven preserve us ! What will become of me, when, added to all this, he would be an Earl, if one could but shove his fair-faced cousin a little to earthward ; besides, Lady Dorothy whispered in my ear, that he was positively to be her heir.

Well, well, we will talk of that some other time. I have been making up my mind on a subject that at present intirely occupies me.

You are mighty ungrateful, Greendale : I have listened enough to your nonsensical complainings, and this is the requital you make me ! Do you know I have asked your friend Fairfax to assist at our grand gala, when you are married to Miss Palmerston ?

Name

Name it not, angrily, interrupted her brother. I would die a thousand deaths rather than marry her. My father may discard me, but he shall not sacrifice me.

Heyday! you are surely stark staring, George. Not marry Miss Palmerston! But you must marry her, and how much better do it with a good grace than a bad one?

He called her unfeeling, insensible girl, and bid her carry these, his last resolves, to the Duke, from which he was determined never to retract. She looked aghast, and said he certainly could not be serious. He convinced her that he was by a tremendous appeal, and they parted without further explanations, she pale with passion, and he trembling with agitation and terror.

Without

Without executing the commission her brother had given her, of bearing his rebellious and final resolves to his father, or even venturing into his presence, Lady Selina stepped into her carriage, which had been a considerable time waiting at the door, to convey her lively Ladyship she did not know where, and to do she did not know what.

She paused a moment after the step was put up, and then ordered them to Portland-Place, tho' her thought was a sudden one of making a visit to her sister ; it was no sooner taken than it became an object of importance, that she should find her Ladyship at home ; there was nothing intended by it of ceremony or affection, and, indeed, she never called there in that sort of way ; for whenever she did go to Lady Margaret, it was to meet all the world, or else to talk over the affairs of their brother. The latter cause was alone consulted on the present

VOL. II. G occasion,

occasion, and she had the good fortune to find her at home and alone.

Lady Margaret Devero was the wife of a private gentleman, whose overgrown wealth had made his want of nobility pardonable by the Angrave family ; but Lady Selina had taken it into her head that a plebeian connection, however advantageous, had fallen her sister so low, that she always considered it as a sort of condescension to be seen at her assemblies, and in return the kind of sentiment Lady Margaret felt for Lady Selina, was a dislike bordering on the confines of hatred, mingled with another ingredient not very unlike envy, which would sometimes vent itself in peevish remarks on her want of solidity, her pertness, or her vanity, and yet each was so perfect a mistress of the polite science of deception, that it was impossible to discover their real feelings for one another,

ther, except you happened to meet with them at least two rooms asunder.

It is not of any signification to make mention of Lady Margaret's husband, for, like many other fashionable womens' husbands, he was of little, or rather of no signification to his Lady; but Lady Margaret Devero herself was the lustre in which all that is magnificent, gay, rich, or shewy, was reflected; and if a ray fell upon her cara-sposa, it could only be from her luminous appearance.

It was half after two o'clock when Lady Selina, with the light step of a Sylph, ascended the stair-case that led to her sister's dressing-room, humming, as she tripped along,

“ Whither, my love, ah ! whither art thou gone ? ”

She found Lady Margaret lounging on a sofa, wrapped up in her dressing gown,

with the breakfast things before her, sipping her tea, and spelling over a newspaper.

Lord, sister! cried she, running to the glass, and adjusting her hair, are you unwell, or what ails you? Why, I breakfasted two hours ago. How are your babes? Where was you last night? Is your good man in swaddling cloaths yet?

You talk so fast, and ask so many questions, Selina, replied Lady Margaret, laying down the news-paper, that I hardly know how to answer, or where to begin. Pray, child, do I look as if I was ill? No, indeed, there is nothing the matter with me. I was last night playing faro at Lady Simpleton's, and did not come home till five. I suppose the children are well, if not I should certainly have heard it. You know I never see them but at dressing time. I hardly know what account to give you of poor Mr. Devero. Just before I went

out yesterday the doctors said he had the gout in his stomach: However, I have sent this morning, and they tell me it is got down into his feet again, so I hope he will get better.

As Lady Selina did not ask questions with any view of information, she filled up the time, in which it was her sister's turn to speak, with looking over a pile of visiting cards, and as many more of invitations, with which the table was covered, till Lady Margaret came to a period, when she did not omit to seize on the occasion, by telling her she had almost stopped a coach in the Park yesterday, so very like Mr. Devero's, that she expected her Ladyship was in it; but that, luckily, before she pulled the string, to dispatch her footman with a message, she looked again, and discovered it had a Marquis's coronet, which, to be sure, added she, is the only thing wanted, my dear sister, to make:

your's the finest carriage that ever was seen.

And that will not be long wanting, Lady Selina, retorted Lady Margaret, colouring like crimfon. Mr. Devero is determined to get himself created; you will fee his name in the next list of peers, I assure you.

Dear me ! Well, I am vastly glad to hear it. Baron, what will he call himself ? for you know he can be but a Baron at first. How happy I shall be when he gets above that diminutive rank. I wish with all my heart they would make him into a Duke at once.

Oh ! child, I know you wish us prodigious well ; I shall therefore intrust you with a secret that will complete your joy : Mr. Devero, from one step to another, is promised as high up as a Marquisate, and

a ducal coronet of course will, in due time, terminate our demands on court favors. Lady Margaret bridled her head at the conclusion of this speech, and Lady Selina looked as if she did not believe it.

Dear, how giddy I am! said her gay Ladyship; I came to tell you, Lady Margaret, the dreadfulest affair that ever was, and might have gone away without saying a word of the matter, if we had not been talking of coronets. Do you know, my brother has told me this morning that he will never marry Miss Palmerston.

Not marry Miss Palmerston! Impossible, exclaimed her Ladyship.

Don't alarm yourself; he must do it at last, and so I told him, and yet he swears tremendously that he never will, and called upon all the folks above and below, angels and devils, to witness his folly; and,

would you believe it? he bid me carry his determination to the Duke.

I hope you was not so silly to do as he bid you. Refuse to marry her, my God! Such an affair would ruin us all. Why, the sums he has already squandered are immense, and if he did not fulfil the contract, the forfeiture is so heavy on his Grace's estates, that it would crush us all to death! How could you be so heedless as not to tell me this before? I have hardly patience with the fool, and then to send you with his mad messages! Well, in my life I never heard of such wickedness, and such assurance.

Pish, you take the matter too seriously. I am sure he will yet come too, notwithstanding his blustering. I would as soon lay a train of gunpowder, and blow up the whole fabric, family and all, as say a word of it to my father, who has every
reason

reason in the world to suppose he means to marry as soon as his shoulder gets well ; and, no doubt, when his sulky fit is over, he will think better of it. In the mean time, do you call on him some part of the day, and try what you can make of him.

That is quite impossible, child. I dine out, go to the play, and after that must shew myself at three assemblies, besides supping at Lady Laterly's, from whence one can never get away till morning, so I leave you to judge if I have any time this day to throw away in convincing headstrong obstinacy.

Oh, very well, to-morrow will be quite the same thing. I don't imagine George means to elope, and I believe he will not be very impatient for your advice, or any other body's ; for my part I do not intend to look in upon him again these three days.

Are you going home, Selina? asked Lady Margaret.

Dear me, I hate home of all places upon earth, and shall certainly not return there till I have made twenty visits at least. (She rang the bell, and called for her carriage.) Shall I say any thing about your coming to-morrow?

By no means. A thousand circumstances may happen to prevent me, with so many things as I have to think of, so many to do, and so little time unoccupied, I can promise nothing; but I will come if I can, which was saying as much as any other fine Lady in town could have said: However, added she, when you get home, I wish you would write one of your pretty flourishing notes about affection, friendship, and all that, for which you are so celebrated, and dispatch it away to Miss Palmerston,

Palmerston, just to shew that we don't neglect her.

But what shall I say of George ?

Why, that he is getting better, and that his confinement is quite a boor to him, as it prevents him from coming to see her, poor girl ! though she is not exactly the thing, he must marry her at last, that is positive, or we are all infallibly undone.

Yes, that will do. Undone, indeed ! a pretty fancy to lose half one's fortune to please him, because he does not happen to fall in love, when he knows of what consequence it is to us that he should marry her. Good-bye, Lady Margaret, I'll make but one visit in my way, and defer the rest, so impatient am I to dispatch my billet-doux ; it was a most excellent thought, and I give you credit for

it. She then flew to the door, and was got half down stairs, when suddenly returning, on second thoughts, cried she, you shall allow me to use your materials, for I shall scribble what I have to say in half a moment, which will save time, and one of your servants may carry it to the Post-Office. Accordingly, catching a pen out of the standish, which had seen its best days, and would hardly now leave a trace on the paper, she contrived to mark out with the back of it, in nearly illegible characters, the following morsel of modern eloquence, modern friendship, and modern sincerity.

My Dearest Friend,

It is an age since I got the scratch of a pen from you, and you can't think how much we all regret, when even we do not hear from you twice a week at least. I believe

believe the Duke loves you better than he does me or Lady Margaret; we talk of nothing but the fine *fête* we are to have on a certain occasion, which I hope is at no great distance. My dear creature, you cannot think how much Lady Margaret and I are longing to call you sister; poor George is quite in despair at his long confinement; we are careful not to let him out too soon, though he is quite wild to break through all restraint, and it is no difficult matter to guess which way his inclinations would lead him if he was his own master; I am sure there is no body in the world he thinks of so much as of you; he does not know I am writing, or I should have a volume of his nonsense to fill up my letter, for though one may bear well enough to talk or write about one's own love, 'tis not so pleasant to tell love stories for another. I send this from Portland Place; Lady Margaret joins in all affection,

tion, with my dearest friend, your most faithful and inviolably attached

SELINA DANGLE.

Lady Margaret highly approved the general contents, and having corrected a few faults in the orthography, seen it sealed, directed and sent away; the two sisters separated to fill up in what manner was most agreeable to themselves, the remainder of a fashionable lady's morning, though in the rational world commonly called the afternoon.

Our polite readers are not to be informed, how very consistent it is with the etiquette of the times, for a lady, who has opened her doors to crowd her rooms and suffocate her company in the evening, should the next morning be troubled with enquiries after her health; for this reason, and perhaps some other cause, when Lady Selina left Portland Place, she took Grosvenor Square in her way, her eyes wandering

ing from side to side as she drove through the streets, as if they were in pursuit of some particular object, and regardless of every other that she passed, or that passed by her; when she stopped at Lady Dorothy Petting's, and was informed that her Ladyship was not returned from airing, she said, in a mortified tone, was ever any thing so unlucky; she desired to speak to the groom of the chambers, who instantly came to the side of the carriage to receive her Ladyship's commands.

Monfieur, said she, tell Lady Dorothy I have been at her door, and am monstrolously disappointed not to find her at home, I wonder what can possess people to jumble about so many hours in that vile Park; this wonder was only muttered to herself, and did not reach the ears of Monfieur Vertien; but she asked him if he could guess what made her stay out so much beyond her usual time, he replied, with as low

low a bow as he could have made to any body below the rank of Dutchess or Marchioness, that he supposed it was owing to some letters his Lady had received, which had detained her beyond her common hour of going out, in seeing trades people, and giving orders.

That's very odd, replied her Ladyship, then I suppose you know what the letters were about.

To be sure I do my Lady, for her Ladyship made no secret of the good news; the young Viscount is going to be married my Lady; the Earl and all the family are coming to town, and her Ladyship is desired by my Lord, her brother, to give orders for every thing to be got ready before their arrival.

This is news indeed, replied Lady Selina, half out of breath, and more than half displeased,

displeased, but tell Lady Dorothy I shall come very soon to wish her joy ; has she seen any company this morning.

Vertien mentioned many Lords and Ladies that had left their names, but said none had been let in except Colonel Fairfax.

Various causes sometimes produce the same effect ; for instance, one blushes from modesty, another from shame ; anger will create blushes, and not unfrequently, they owe their birth nearly to constitution ; from one or other of those causes, the first only excepted, Lady Selina's face certainly underwent a change of colour as she whispered to herself, alas ! poor Fairfax ; she then dismissed Vertien, with a thousand charges not to forget her message to his Lady, and was ordering her servants where to go next, when Colonel Fairfax stood at the side of her carriage, in *propria persona* ;
this

this rencounter was so unexpected by her Ladyship, and so concordent to her wishes, that she almost screamed out with pleasure at the sight of him.

He accosted her with a grace all his own, and in Lady Selina's opinion, irresistably captivating, always polite, and respectfully at his ease; there was no embarrass in his salutation, and her Ladyship too consequential, and too much of the ton to be troubled with that sort of *mauvais honte*, that it is now the fashion for young females to leave behind them, on their enlargement from their nurseries, accepted his devors, not as the acquaintance of a day, but with all the freedom of an established intimacy.

As he leaned his arm on the door of the carriage, listening to an inundation of troubles, sorrows, and mortifications, occasioned by her not finding Lady Dorothy at home, and being just then at a loss for something

something to say, which at times may have been the case of other wise men, as well as of the Colonel, he thought her Ladyship looked rather pale, he said, hoped she had not taken cold the preceding evening, and enquired after the health of Lord Greendale.

Oh, as to his health, she replied, I am sure he is quite well, though he will not own it; he is born to plague us all, and the veriest self-tormentor that ever was heard of; we have had a great battle this morning, not but we are the best friends in the world—so you think I look pale; lord! how can it be otherwise, when one is always meeting with something or other to be vexed about; there's my brother will not do as we would have him, but I forgot to tell you he is quite transported that you are come to town, and that he shall have the honor of renewing his acquaintance with you; pray come and
make

make him a visit soon, and don't forget, when you call, that there is another person in the family who will be glad to see you.

The Colonel made every return to this flattering invitation that politeness or gallantry could suggest, and was going to take his leave, under a pretence that her Ladyship might suffer from a farther detention, the air being remarkably severe, and wind easterly, when she suddenly cried out, As I live there is Lady Dorothy's carriage just come into the square, be so good to bid them let down the step, I must go in and ask her how she does.

Her command was instantly obeyed; he presented his hand with a grace, she gave him her own with a smile, then springing from the coach with a lightness and speed that might have shamed the boundings of the mountain roe, she trip'd with him up the staircase, at the top of which she planted herself, to watch the disembarkation of the household

household troops, the Colonel having left her, at her own request, to assist his aunt, her Persian cat, and five dogs, in getting out of the carriage.

There could not, in the whole chapter of casualties, be found another chance so pleasant, so delightful to Lady Dorothy, as that which had coupled together her nephew and Lady Selina Dangle in Grosvenor Square; the Colonel was to dine with her by appointment, and her intreaties were of so pressing a nature, that her Ladyship would partake of their family dinner, that she actually did send to put off another engagement for the evening, with a message that she should not dine at home, and orders for her chair to be sent at eleven, for by that time the only reason she had for staying where she was would no longer exist, the Colonel having hinted something of a promise he was under, to meet a few friends at Brooks's about that hour,

hour, the only cause we can advance, why Lady Selina did not persist in going home to dress before dinner, for indeed such a proposal was made, though not adheard to, proceeding from a very justly founded opinion, that her pretty person was quite as enchanting *en deshabillé*, as it could be made by the aid of more splendid ornaments ; for be it understood, Lady Selina's dishabille did in no wise resemble that of a flattern female gambler, such as she is seen by her own half starved family, after a bad run of luck ; or that of a primitive country gentlewoman, busied in her domestic employments. Her Ladyship's *robe de chambre* was white muslin, of the finest texture, without spot or blemish, and edged with point lace ; one handkerchief shaded her beautiful bosom, and another was twisted round her fair hair, *en Turke*, which altogether had a very becoming effect on the wearer, and of which

5

advantage

advantage she was not the last to be conscious.

As soon as poor Lady Dorothy's joy, at finding Lady Selina at her house, and prevailing on her to stay dinner, was a little subsided, a thought occurred, which was not in unison with her first emotions of pleasure, it was no other, than how, without injury to the Colonel's interest, she might venture to speak of the letter she had that morning received from Lord Delborough, his sons intended marriage, being, in the sagacity of her opinion, a considerable drawback to her favourite nephew's pretensions to her fair friend. Before she had determined exactly what to say on the occasion, Lady Selina relieved her a good deal, by crying out in her lively way,

What can I be thinking of all this time,
not to have wished your Ladyship and the
Colonel

Colonel joy ; old Vertien has been telling me strange things about Lord Haverville's being married, coming to town, and I don't know what.

Strange indeed, replied Lady Dorothy, there was nothing in the world I so little expected ; I do not think, if I was to marry myself, it would be half the surprise to me.

My dear Madam, said the Colonel, when you marry, I am sure it will be with deliberation, therefore the surprise, if there is any shewn on such an event taking place, you can have no share in ; but why this surprise that Lord Haverville means to present your Ladyship with a niece ? or why call it strange, that a man of twenty-four should think of establishing himself ?

You

You are talking child, interrupted Lady Dorothy, rather angrily, of what you do not understand; Haverville establish himself! remember what I tell you, and see if I am not a true prophetess, he will not live long enough to have the marriage ceremony performed, if it is to be delayed till necessary preparations are made, which cannot be done in less than six months; I wish I had not such good reason for my fears on his account; poor young man, the last time I saw him, he was in a deep decline.

Lady Selina declared she had danced with him once at St. James's, and expected he would have expired at her feet, before he had gone down three couple.

That might have been the fate of a Hercules, with such an object as your Ladyship for his partner, and had he not almost expired at your feet, I should have

had a much worse opinion of his taste, than I now have of his constitution.

Lady Dorothy would a second time have felt displeased, by the doubt implied in the Colonel's conclusion of his speech, but the compliment which preceded it left no room in her mind for any sentiment, except those of admiration, for his love-making talents, and approbation of the critical moment in which he had so happily applied them, seeing in the eyes of Lady Selina he had not spoken in vain; for though the Colonel meant no more than to be civil, both the ladies had mistaken his meaning, and construed it into little less than a downright declaration of a violent passion for Lady Selina.

Colonel Fairfax, when the dinner things were removed, and the servants withdrawn, began again the subject of Lord Haver-ville's marriage, and said so much of the
very

very high terms in which the Earl spoke of his future daughter, in the letter Lady Dorothy had shewn him from his Lordship, when he called in the morning, that Lady Selina protested she should go mad with the disappointment, if she was not permitted to read it; this was a plea not to be resisted, the letter was produced, and read aloud by the Colonel, at his own particular request.

L E T T E R.

Dear Sister,

You are not to be informed, that hitherto I have met with nothing in this life but losses, mortifications, and contradictions; my late wife's fortune fell short of what I expected; I have been mortified by the humiliating connection of one part of my family, and eternally opposed by every individual of it, except yourself; you know

too the very great troubles I have had on my son's account, he was always tormenting me upon some occasion or other; his love, his fickleness, his obstinacy, or his ill health, were everlasting sources of vexation; not that I write now to complain, but on the contrary, to make you a sharer of my present happiness. Haverville is at last going to settle himself, and very much to my satisfaction. I approve the fortune, family and education of my daughter elect, but I more than approve of herself; I think she is already as dear to me as if I were her father, and I love Haverville much the better for having chosen her, she will be the pride of us all, Lady Dorothy; now if my son had been writing to you instead of his father, he might have told you a great deal about the beauty of her person; those of her mind have made a far deeper impression on my affections, not but I think the loveliness of the one can know no inferiority, but in the endow-

ments of the other. I must not omit to tell you, that Miss Beverly, the future Lady Haverville, is sister to Lady Archer; it was at the house of my respectable neighbour, Sir James, that Haverville had the good fortune to meet with this young creature, who will be a blessing to us all; the many difficulties he had then to surmount, had nearly been fatal to him, and so had the extravagance of his joy when those difficulties were all removed. Sister Dorothy, he may yet relapse, if we do not forward this marriage with all dispatch; for to tell you the truth, I have observed for some weeks past the boy hangs his head, and looks thoughtful. Miss Beverly had once a favoured lover before she knew my son, and I suppose he is afraid he will rise again out of his grave and claim his mistress; God forbid! but the sooner she is secured to us the better. I request your Ladyship to send your immediate commands for the getting ready my house in St. James's-

Square, and that you will give orders for any of the apartments you think may want it, to be new furnished. The ceremony will be performed in town, as soon as the settlements are made; they are now in hand, and the lawyers have received my orders to be diligent. When you inform me my house is ready, we shall remove to it, and my dear daughter will accompany her brother and sister, to remain with them in Grafton-Street, till she does my family the honor to preside over it, as Viscountess Haverville; it will be time enough to settle the bride's jewels, and other ornaments, when we meet; I intend my liberality shall be proportioned to my approbation, and in all those matters to consult your taste.

I am, dear Sister,

Your affectionate Brother,

DELBOROUGH.

Having finished reading the letter, re-folded, and returned it to his aunt, Colonel Fairfax said, as he presented it to her, I have never felt so strong a desire that my father's brother should acknowledge me for his relation, as I have done since your Ladyship permitted me to see this testimonial of his talents for discovering merit, and the affection with which he beholds it; from henceforth I must love him, though he should never honor me with his recognition.

Lady Dorothy allowed, that in some respects, her brother knew how to act well, but was in others perfectly wrong; the union he appeared to be so fond of, was in her opinion the most unaccountable absurdity that ever entered into the head of a rational being; his son had often changed his mind in similar situations, and she hoped he had not done so for the last time; for if he should die, as she was very sure must be

the case, it would be mighty hard for his successor to be burthened with a heavy jointure, which he might be incumbered with for many tedious years, with so young a Dowager on his hands; however, added she, I will do as my brother desires, and leave the rest to chance; Providence might have been more properly referred to, but the good lady, in her bustling through the pleasures and grandeur of this life, had mislaid, or lost her direction to its dwelling place.

Though Lady Selina had not given her opinion, yet with avidity had she bestowed her undivided attention on the contents of Lord Delborough's letter, and from them collected some hints, which she was now digesting in her thoughts, not without hopes of making them useful, when the simple question from Colonel Fairfax, of asking a place in her box at the Opera House, merely to give the conversation a lift out of
his

his own family affairs, made her start from her reverie, and not having really distinguished one word from another, that had passed since the letter was put up; and now for the first time hearing the sound of his voice, she intuitively exclaimed, in answer to his petition, or rather in coincidence with the subject matter of her own contemplations,

Lord, there was never any thing so preposterous!

What! replied the Colonel, smiling, for he had discovered her answer was the effect of absence; do you call my request of a place in your Ladyship's box preposterous?

Oh! nothing in the world can be less so, returned she, as if awaking out of a deep sleep; but I thought you was talking of Lord Haverville, and what in nature is

H 5

there

there so preposterous as a man running towards the goal of matrimony with one foot in his coffin. As Lady Selina pronounced the last word, a servant appeared, and delivered her a note, saying, at the same time, that her Ladyship's chair was come.

Bid them return, if you please, Sir, said she, and come again at eleven; it is now but nine; they are two hours sooner than I ordered them; but having examined the direction on the note, she changed her mind, and desired they might wait as the note was from her brother, and might possibly require an answer. Lady Dorothy begged she would read it without ceremony, and the Colonel moving the candles nearer to her, said, with a gay air, he would try and make himself useful, by throwing a light on the subject.

Casting her eyes negligently over the
paper,

paper, I challenge you, cried her Ladyship, to make good your promise; only hear his mysterious mandate; if you can find out its dark meaning, I shall be mighty glad, for I know nothing about it. She then read:

NOTE,

Excuse me, that I leave orders for your servants to attend you before the time you appointed them. Dear Selina, return home. Go to my chamber, and there you will find a packet directed to my father. Deliver it to him, I beseech you, and plead for the unhappy writer!

Yours, GREENDALE.

Did ever any body read such nonsense? continued she, throwing it on the table. Indeed, my very polite and reasonable brother, you are quite in the wrong, to suppose I shall leave my agreeable friends here, and return home to be appointed your letter

H 6

carrier..

carrier. Lady Dorothy, Colonel Fairfax, did you ever hear any thing half so mad as his Lordship's modest request?

The Colonel was thunder struck at her insensibility, and Lady Dorothy looked as if she suspected something had happened amiss in the Duke's family, though what she looked was one thing, and what she said was another, for she made very light of the melancholy summons, and declared she should be miserable, if it deprived her of her dear Lady Selina's company one moment before the time she had first mentioned, which agreeing perfectly with her Ladyship's own inclinations and determination, the servants were accordingly sent away, whilst Colonel Fairfax attended to their arrangement in profound silence, and his countenance wore a strong expression of seriousness foreign from its native gay, but always sensible, animation.

A fool has privileges from which the better portioned children of nature are exempted. He is neither accountable to himself or others for any sort of impropriety he commits, and is even unconscious of his own errors; but as Lady Selina was not of this description, and saw, as she imagined, something like disapprobation in the silence and reserve of her military favourite, she almost repented that she had not sacrificed pleasure to policy, and, by tearing herself from his presence, to have carried with her his good opinion, rather than, by staying two hours longer, chance to lose it for ever. Were we to decide upon the question, it would be in favour of what Lady Selina did, and not what she wished to have done. If we do not conceal our real characters, approbation is then a free gift; but if we obtain it under false pretences, by holding out the sign of qualities we do not possess, the defrauded party

party is, in our opinion, amenable to all the pains and penalties of a swindler.

Colonel Fairfax got the better of his inclination to silence; but could not bring back his lively entertaining humour. The situation of Lord Greendale, which was apparently unhappy, still occupied his thoughts, and had flown quite away with the natural gaiety of his disposition. The remainder of the evening, till eleven, when, by agreement, they were to separate, was tinctured with dullness, and so far from flying, the moments lagged heavily along, loaded with the humane apprehensions of the Colonel. Lady Dorothy's anxiety, because he did not exert himself in the art of pleasing, and the discontent of Lady Selina with herself, for having missed an opportunity of passing for a woman of feeling, and with the Colonel for taking it so seriously.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXVIII.

WE hope our readers are not very impatient to know what passed in the Duke of Angrave's family, on Lady Selina's return to it from Grosvenor-Square, because if they are we must leave them to struggle with their curiosity, perhaps, for a hundred or two of pages, which, merely for their better understanding the real or fancied perplexities of Lord Greendale, we think fit to fill up with relating some antecedent events regarding his Lordship, into which they have hitherto been but very mysteriously initiated.

The

The Duke and Duchefs had provided their little Marquis with a wife before he knew that fuch an appendage was neceffary to convey, in a ftraight line, the hereditary titles of his auguft family to future pofterity. In their choice of Mifs Palmerfton for this diftinguifhed office, their Graces had confulted every thing for their fon's advantage, and had forgot nothing but what appertained to his happinefs, therefore it may be prefumed they were equally good with other good parents of the prefent day.

A marriage in the nurfery is fo rare an inftance of paternal prudence, and the folemnity of contracting two parties, whole ages fumm'd up together amounted only to nine years, may probably be fuppofed by many, merely from its novelty, as good food for defcription as the weddings of other Marquifes and Marchioneffes, who are arrived at the years of difcretion. From this conclufion we fhall endeavour to fatisfy
their

their reasonable desires, by entertaining them with the where, when, and how, of the infantine ceremony.

First, then, as to the place where it was performed: I answer, at the seat of Sir Arthur White, to whose care the orphan's person had been wholly consigned, though another gentleman was united with him in trust for her fortune. The hour when it was celebrated, five o'clock in the afternoon, of a gloomy day in November, and the manner how, as shall be hereafter faithfully related.

The parties assembled in Sir Arthur's drawing-room, on this no common occasion, were, on the part of the ward, himself, his Lady, his lawyer, and his chaplain, besides Mr. Anthony Pearce, her other guardian. The actors on the other side were, their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Angrave, and their lawyer. Each of those gentlemen

gentlemen of the robe had prepared on behalf of his client, and by their direction certain instruments, whereby either of the parties contracting, and afterwards retracting, became bound, by a forfeiture of immense magnitude, to him, or her, who should be so aggrieved by any other marriage interfering with this their solemn engagement. These preliminaries having long been arranging, and before this meeting perfectly adjusted to the satisfaction of all the wise heads which had been concerned in the business, nothing remained to be done but countersigning the agreement, which being rapturously performed by the Duke, and cheerfully by the guardians, properly witnessed, and the seal of secrecy put on the lips of all present, Lady White went in person to fetch down the destined husband and wife from their nursery.

The

The entrance of those noble personages on the scene of action was not announced by the firing of cannon, or the ringing of bells ; the bridegroom was not stiffened out in embroidery, or the bride blazing in jewels ; but the public entry of this illustrious pair, when they were to approach the altar of Hymen, was after a much more natural, though, perhaps, unprecedented fashion.

Instead of alighting from a highly finished chariot, made by the celebrated Hatcher, and new for the nuptial occasion, my Lord, Marquis of Greendale, came galloping into the drawing-room, mounted on a gold-headed cane of his father's ; his dress something between that of masculine and feminine. He whip'd up his hobby-horse ; his voice resounded through the apartments ; it was the expression of joy, freedom, and good-humour. His fair hair waved in natural ringlets over his white forehead, and reached

ed behind almost to his feet. Health bloomed on his cheeks, and manly intrepidity animated his countenance. He was followed by Lady White, leading in the little primitive bride, of whom we shall only say, that his Lordship's other half was no more like his Lordship, than the half of a pine-apple is like the half of a cream cheese.

Come to me, George, said the Duke.

Not yet, replied the boy; I can't come yet. Don't you see I am riding a race, and round the room he flew with so rapid a motion, that there was no laying hold of him. Query, had he at that moment a presentiment that this was to be the last hour of his freedom.

Mills put her hands before her as she entered, and stopping within the door, made a very low curtesy to the Duchess,

one

one to the Duke, and another to each of her guardians. Her Grace beckoned her, with an alluring smile of condescension, to come to her. She quitted Lady White's hand, and, with all the gravity of good-breeding, which was fashionable a hundred years ago, and a solemnity that would not even then have disgraced a female of three-score, the little gentlewomen, with slow and sober steps, obeyed the gracious summons.

After kissing her forehead, and telling her she was a charming child, with other fond marks of approbation, she asked her how she liked Lord Greendale, and if she would have him for her husband, and be a great Lady?

If you please, Ma'am, replied Miss.

That's very prettily said, my dear. I hope you and George will always love one another,

another, and agree together. He is very fond of you; is he not?

No, indeed, Ma'am, my Lord is so rude; and when I tell him to be quiet, and not soil my dolls, or disorder my room, he calls me all sorts of names.

O fie! What does he call you?

Miss Prim, and Miss Formal, and once he called me Punch's Wife; and just now he called me old Mother Shipton, because I would not let him whip his top in my nursery.

My dear child, you must not suppose he was in earnest when he behaved so naughtily; no, no, he was only in jest.

That I was not, said his blustering Lordship, who had stopped his race for a moment, and concealed behind the chair of

his mother, had overheard the charges brought against him, I called her so in good earnest. If she won't believe me, let her ask Jack Jenkins. I wish you would carry me back again, for I can't bear to stay here any longer. I'll tell you what, Miss Palmerston, I hate tell-tales, and if you was a boy I'd flog you handsomely, when, shaking his head at her with an air of defiance, he pursued his journey round and round the room.

The great and worthy personages assembled together, on an occasion of all others the most awful, were so far from feeling any dismay, at the portentous discord, that upon this very dissention, they raised a pretence for compleating the sacrifice made to avarice and ambition, by a stratagem that would entirely hide from the victims themselves, how much they owed to the worldly wisdom of their parents and

and guardians, it was the contrivance of one moment and the execution of another.

The parties all stood up, Sir Arthur's chaplain had a small book in his hand, with his thumb between the pages ending with the order of confirmation, and beginning with the form of solemnization of matrimony. My Lord Marquis was stopped in his career by the Duke, and by him led into the circle, or rather he entered it on his wooden horse, for his Grace could find no argument strong enough to make him dismount, and he then asked what they wanted with him.

My love, replied the Duchess, we are all very sorry that you and Miss Palmerston (who her Grace was holding by the hand) have ever disagreed, and for that reason we are going to make you good friends, come we will all join in a play that will

will occasion you to love one another as long as you live.

Oh, if that's all, mama, I like my own play better by half, and was again bouncing off, but was stopped by the whole group of hymenial assistants, who seized on him with as much strength and authority, as if they had been commissioned from the bench of justices, and they also assured him that he must join in the play, as there was not enough to perform it without his assistance; submission was not the characteristic of his Lordship's humour, he stood to it stiffly that they must do without him, and twisted himself into a thousand shapes to get out of their hands, but finding all his efforts did not answer the purpose, he told them, if they would let him go, he would run and fetch up Pompey who should play with them in his stead: now Pompey was his little black boy, and Jack Jenkins was his friend.

After a struggle for his freedom, which he manfully maintained for more than ten minutes, he was at last prevailed upon to part with it, for the promise of a very fine horse, and the immediate presentation of a watch, drawn from the pocket of his father, which so deeply engaged his attention, in forcing it open and shutting it again, that the Reverend Mr. Tackaway was arrived at the ceremonial of the ring without his Lordship's having heard a word of the matter; the affirmative it had been necessary he should pronounce, was procured by the critical question being put at the same time that another was asked of him by his mother, to which she was sure he would not give a negative. And now, my darling, said the Duchess to him, at the same time taking her own plain ring from her finger, you must put on this ring upon your little play-fellow's finger, holding it out, and afterwards Miss Palmerston will promise to behave very well, and

and do every thing you bid her; Won't you my dear? She said, Yes, if my Lord would promise to call her no more names. He did as her Grace desired him to do, because he was impatient to get rid of his confinement; and when he was told the play was over, he declared he never saw so foolish a play in his life, that it was only fit for such girls as his sister, Selina, and Miss Prim, and wondered such tall men as the Duke could bear to play at it. He was checked for using the appellation of Miss Prim, and was prevailed on to beg her pardon, and kiss her cheek, which concluded his part of the farcical wedding; the bride and bridegroom were dismissed; the remainder of the eventful day was passed in laying out plans for their future establishment, and the next morning the Duke and Duchess separated the new married couple, by taking their son with them to town, and leaving his espoused wife behind with her guardians.

Having related the particulars of a marriage, which has novelty at least for its recommendation, we shall, with permission, drop the curtain on the scene that is passed, and not draw it up again till we exhibit our Marquis a second time on the stage of our history, just entering into his sixteenth year, one of the most learned, accomplished, and withal the handsomest youths' of this or any other country.

Where the heart is warm, open, and susceptible to such sort of impressions as have their source in generosity, courage and humanity, it requires no great degree of penetration to foresee that heart will early unfold itself to receive tenderer feelings, and more endearing sensations, of this danger, which for the foregoing reasons, seemed evidently to threaten Lord Greendale; both the Duke and Duchess of Angrave were aware, and shuddering with horror at the bare surmise, that it was possible

sible he might form a serious connection, consulting only his passions, and not their inclinations, before he was acquainted with his real situation ; to avoid this misfortune, which would overwhelm them all, they determined to acquaint him with the nature of his engagement to Miss Palmerston, that he might, by knowing he was not the master of his own fate, be guarded against the errors of ignorance, for which only themselves could be reckoned accountable.

The day on which his Lordship completed the fifteenth year of his journey through life, and the eighth of his progress through Westminster School, he was closeted with his father, and by him informed of the grand family secret ; the Marquis's passions, fortunately for the Duke's purpose, though by nature strong and almost uncontrollable, had not yet been awakened by the fascinating glance

of beauty, or called to action by the stimulative anxieties of rivalry, for which reasons the blow that would have felled him to the earth, had it been held back a few years longer, was hardly felt by him at the moment he sustained it, and when the Duke asked his opinion of the Marchioness, this was exactly his reply :

Whatever you and my mother have destined for me must be right, and I submit myself to your commands ; I know very little of Miss Palmerston, therefore, my dear father, I cannot tell you what I think of her, nor is it of much consequence, as it must be a great many years before I have any business to think about her at all.

The Duke, transported with a submission he hardly dared to expect, readily promised to grant a request, which he urged with more than common force, that he never might be compelled to see Miss Palmerston,
but

but in the presence of some part of his own family, till he had finished his education, was come back from his travels, and found himself disposed to settle in a family way: His Grace recommended to him a strict observance of silence, which he never infringed, except to Lady Selina, who being but one year younger than himself, was the repository of his secret thoughts, and the counsellor of all his occasions, and with her Ladyship it would have remained perfectly secure if she had lived secluded from all the rest of the world, nor did she divulge it till she had been presented at St. James's, and her brother was returned from his travels, and even then her confidence was confined to Lady Dorothy Petting, and a few other such dowager ladies, who happened to have handsome sons, grandsons, or nephews.

Miss Palmerston was not made acquainted with her engagements, or more

properly speaking with those made for her by her guardians, till a compleat year after Lord Greendale had been let into the secret, nor did she receive the intelligence with any part of that indifference his Lordship had shewn on the same occasion; her heart, it is true, was not formed for the admittance of exquisite sensibility, but all the preference it was capable of feeling, had been bestowed on the Marquis, and the greatest joy she had ever experienced arose from the intelligence that she was his affianced wife, and that he could be the husband of no other woman.

It was so managed by the wise contrivers of this early marriage, that after it had been declared to both parties, neither suspected the other of being acquainted with the circumstance, which left the Marquis quite at his ease when forced to attend his family on their visits to her guardians, or to see her at his father's, and prevented
the

the young lady from labouring under any additional restraint in the presence of her contracted Lord; had it been otherwise, the circumstance might not only have been painful, but could certainly give no new grace to a girl's appearance, whose manners nature had loaded with reserve, and whose education had fettered them with forms and formalities of all descriptions; her person was much in the stile of her manners, quiet, unmeaning, and of course uninteresting, but her soul had many points to distinguish it from the souls of the present daughters of fashion, she loved truth, hated falshood, and abhorred defamation.

The Duke of Angrave, however far he might have strayed from the boundaries of wisdom, at least of christian wisdom, in the pursuit of riches, rather than happiness in his son's establishment, had acted in other respects, by the exact rules of good sense and paternal affection, of which we

cannot shew one instance more to the purpose, than the choice he had made of Dr. Pladlow for the conductor of his son's education; this character will be self elucidated, as we proceed in our little history of the Marquis's entanglements.

His Lordship having finished his studies at Westminster, with an eclat that did him the highest honor, and his governor the greatest credit; the latter was dismissed by his Grace with abundant expressions of gratitude, and munificent tokens of his perfect approbation; and the former was installed with all the order of freedom, which the Duke had left in his own power to bestow upon him, every avenue to pleasure was opened to him, the temple of Venus, the courts of Bacchus and Comus were not barred against him, and the only place of public worship, from which he was excluded in this metropolis of idolatry, was the tabernacle of Hymen. “ I would
3 have

“have my son, says the Duke, well acquainted with the customs and manners of his own country, before he visits any other :” and surely to lay the whole map of dissipation and vice spread wide before him, and to bid him study it with vigilance, was a very excellent method, not only to make a young man of nineteen acquainted with the customs and manners of his own country, but to give him such a relish for them, that he will devote himself to a strict observance of them for the rest of his life.

The Marquis at nineteen was not a devotee to pleasures ; even such as were exactly consistent with rationality, he partook of with moderation ; a melancholy clung about his heart, he did not then hate Miss Palmerston, because from a point of honor he had never suffered his eyes to search out any particular object to make the performance of his duty a

more difficult task than he had yet found it, and though he every day saw women he could have preferred to her who was the chosen of his family, yet he was not in love, and whilst he felt his shackles, he resolved to wear them without complaining.

In this temper of mind prior, to his leaving England, he obtained permission of the Duke to spend a few weeks at the country retirement of Dr. Pladlow, whom he loved and respected with more sincerity than most pupils are wont to bestow on those who have been instrumental to their acquirements of knowledge.

When a letter from Lord Greendale, signifying his intentions of paying a visit to his friend and tutor, was delivered into his hands, opened, and the contents examined, he hesitated, he was glad, he was sorry, his Lordship's presence would certainly

tainly do him pleasure and honor, but alas, there was also a chance that it might be productive of pain and humiliation; Dr. Pladlow who had been fourteen years a widower, on the very day before he got this letter, had fetched from a boarding school, where she had been sequestered from the death of her mother to her present age of eighteen, his beautiful, his only and his beloved child; he knew the warmth of his pupil's affections, though they had never yet been called into action, and the Duke had intrusted him with his engagements to Miss Palmerston. Partiality to the lovely Ann terrified him for the temptation he was running into, and fear of the consequences that might ensue to the Marquis, himself and his daughter, completed his embarrass; what could be done, it was impossible to put off Lord Greendale, he must have begun his journey before a letter could reach him; for Ann to stay with him, to be seen, and of course to

to be loved by the Marquis, would involve them all in destruction. That he could not submit to hazard. There remained but one path of safety for him to tread, which was to return his daughter to the asylum from whence he had taken her, it was five miles from his own house, and where there could not be a possibility of her being thrown in the way of his visitor, which honorable and prudent plan he carried into execution the following morning, telling the poor disappointed Ann, as a reason for the suddenness of her removal, he had just been apprised that a party of his friends from London, were on the road, with the design of passing some part of the season of partridge shooting at his cottage, and that as soon as they had left him, he would bring her home again, and establish her the mistress of his little family.

Redberry, was the name which we suppose was given to the Doctor's habitation, in accordance with the blushing luxu-

rious vine that covered and almost concealed the front of it, and at Redberry Lord Greendale arrived three days after Miss Pladlow was departed from it; his Lordship was attended by two servants only, whose names our readers, if their memories are not bad, most remember to have heard before, Jack Jenkins the humble friend of his infancy, now the faithful and principal servant about his person, and Black Pompey the little page, who he had proposed to play the game of matrimony in his stead, now performing the duties of an honest footman.

As Jenkins was putting his Lord to bed, the second night after his arrival at this home of quiet and hospitality, his Lordship, who always behaved towards him with the most gracious condescension, was enlarging on the merit of his entertainer, the neatness of his house, and the beauty of its situation, but observed that in the midst of all his enjoyments, he missed the ladies of his own family, not having seen the

face of a female since he came into the house.

Your Lordship would have had no reason to complain, replied Jenkins, had you come here three days sooner, for it was no longer ago that Miss Pladlow was sent away from the house ; the housekeeper shewed me her picture this morning, and indeed, my Lord, if it does not flatter, she must be the most peerless beauty that your eyes ever beheld.

We can no otherwise account for the politeness of Mr. Jenkins's phrase, in his description of the young lady, than by observing that his birth was not of the meanest sort, his talents better than his birth, and his education liberal, in short, that he would have been intitled to the bearings of gentility, had not misfortune laid her destructive hand on the escutcheon, and blotted out his pretentions.

Lord

Lord Greendale expressed a surprise, which was exceedingly natural, it being the first time in his life, of his having heard that the friend who had for twelve years acted the part of a father by him, was himself a father. Indeed, this was a circumstance Dr. Pladlow had carefully concealed, and his reasons for so doing may be found in the list of those which had occasioned him to send his daughter away, when he received the intelligence that his pupil intended to honor him with a visit. A generous, but premeditated design had been made to appear merely the work of chance. It was not by denying the paternal character, that he had kept his Lordship in ignorance, but by avoiding at all times to speak of himself or family, there had been no openings for the Marquis to make enquiries, his present intentions were not to disown his daughter, but only to keep her and his pupil from the danger of seeing each other; there
were

were but two cautions he thought it necessary to use besides that of removing Ann from the house, one was that his servants if questioned, should not discover to what place she had been removed, and the other to take down a whole length picture of her, which he had caused to be drawn, after he had separated from the Duke's family, and which till then had adorned his library, and to commit it to the care of his housekeeper, who having received no other charge but to lock it up, thought it no breach of trust to shew it to my Lord's gentleman, and my Lord's gentleman would have thought himself deserving of a halter if he had not mentioned it to my Lord.

His Lordship contemplated an hour after Jenkins had left him, on the intelligence he had brought him, and in the eighth part of that time, he had penetrated into the Doctor's reasons for never having
spoke

spoke to him of his daughter, and for sending her away when he was expected; he not only saw but approved them, and resolved he would take no pains to render them abortive, or make his honest heart uneasy, by letting him see he had become the master of its secret; with this prudent determination he turned round upon his pillow, dropt asleep, and dreamt of the picture.

His Lordship asked Jenkins, the next morning, if he could by any contrivance get him a sight of Miss Pladlow's portrait, without the housekeeper's knowing he had seen it, at the same time he bid him not say any thing to her of his ever having mentioned the subject of her young mistress to him; my friend, continued he, has been silent about her, and I will not appear to have discovered what he wishes to conceal; I have nothing but curiosity to gratify, so get me unnoticed a peep at her picture, and

and it will do as well as if I had been permitted to see the lady herself. Jenkins promised to be on the look out for a favourable moment; and opportunity, never behind hand, when depending on our own strength we chuse to go in quest of temptations, presented the picture that very day to the Marquis, who having gazed on it half an hour, felt that it was armed with ten thousand beauties, was sure the painter must have been an egregious flatterer, and took refuge in that idea, nor did it for eight and forty hours again enter into his thoughts, except to think how greatly Miss Plallow must have been flattered by the artist.

Lord Greendale was very fond of field sports, and would often go out with his gun and dogs, quite unattended, and had more than once stayed out the whole day; sometimes the doctor would be uneasy at his pupil's long absence, but the quantity of game he produced at his return, was a
fort

fort of certificate how he had passed his time, and never failed to remove suspicion, and restore the old man to perfect confidence and good humour.

In one of those excursions, it so happened, that having sprung a covey of birds, some miles from Redberry, he had pursued them through several corn fields, 'till almost breathless with fatigue, and incommoded by the extreme heat of the weather, for it was one of the hottest days in September, he was tempted to shelter himself in a thick copse, that offered him a cooling retreat on the side of a common, where on the root of a tree he sat himself down, and having called his dogs round him, and laid his gun by his side, not knowing perhaps what else to think of, his thoughts reverted to the picture, and after considering the matter all over, he settled in his own mind that it was a fault, rather than perfection in that painter, who should
daringly

daringly presume to make the human face divine, more resplendantly glorious than nature herself had ever represented it in the most finished of her works.

His Lordship was roused from his philosophical meditation, by the sound of female voices, which he could hear very distinctly, though the persons were hid from his view by the thickness of that part of the wood into which they had penetrated; he started from his seat, listened, and guided by the sound, crept near enough to see the backs of two females, who were sitting with their faces from him under a tree; one of them he observed had taken off her hat, cloak and gloves, which lay at her feet; it was impossible he could get them *vis a vis*, but the figure of one of them had a strange effect on his nerves, for he trembled with agitation, whilst he listened as she spoke thus to her companion.

How

How enchanting it must have been to have lived in paradise on such sultry days as this. Why don't you do as I do, and throw off your incumbrances?

Lord help you, replied the other, you are always too warm or too cold; your beauty may plead an excuse for your whims, and it does not signify how many good things you destroy; now if ever I get a husband, it will be a god send, and how is a poor governess, who has but twenty-five pounds a year, to get more hats and cloaks, if I was to use mine, and kick them about as you do?

But my dear Mademoiselle, interrupted her lively friend, you must and you shall have a husband, only mind now if the old gypsy, who is to meet us here, when she tells your fortune, does not promise you one.

I wish

I wish she was come, returned Mademoiselle, and gone again, for I am afraid of my life, our appointment will be found out, and then the least thing I can expect, is that I shall lose my place.

Never mind if that should happen, for then I will take you home with me, and when I am married, you shall be governess to my children, because you are so good natured.

As the young lady concluded this more grateful than prudent promise, she cried out exultingly, have done with your fears, Mademoiselle, for here comes the prophets.

Lord Greendale followed the speaker's looks with his own, and saw creeping along between briars and brush-wood, which almost obstructed her passage, an old bel-dam, answering exactly to the description
of

of Otway's witch, in his excellent play of the Orphan. The ladies, without changing their situations, desired she would take her place by them and proceed to business; the hag insisted that the two friends must separate, it being against her rules to speak with more than one at a time, or to have a third person present; and the Marquis seeing the governess about to leave her place, in conformity to the established laws of the Egyptians, lowered his head some inches, to prevent her seeing him there, if she should happen to turn that way, but perceiving she walked forward, and stood at a convenient distance, with her back still turned to him, he re-assumed his position, and redoubled his attention, in consequence of which, no word or action escaped his notice.

My pretty lady, said the old woman, you must give me your hand, for all my learning lies in palmistry.

This was a command highly favourable to his Lordship's wishes, as it brought within his view such a hand and such an arm, as defied the art of imitation by painting or chissel ; make haste, said she, stretching it towards the gipsy, and be sure you tell me no bad luck ; the answer she received did not displease her, and being ordered to lay half a crown on the palm of her hand, which was soon transferred to the pocket of inspiration, there followed so long a list of good fortune, and various sorts of prosperity, as would have been a cheap bargain, had the purchaser bought it at twenty times the sum she had given.

Lord Greendale heard nothing but a jargon of folly and a string of inconsistencies, from which he could pick out no intelligence that would give him an insight into the what or who this credulous young creature was, who listened with such avidity to the tale of imposition ; and when she

she had delivered her dark oracle to the one, he was not sorry to see the imposter hobble away to the other, where, whilst she was dealing out the same sort of cant, he had the exquisite delight of hearing the following little ballad warbled out in strains so sweet and melodious, as thrill'd through his soul, and filled it with such transport, as had nearly betrayed him; he would certainly have begged a repetition, of the song, which had so infinitely charm'd him, had not the approach of her friend put him in mind of their situation and his own.

S O N G.

As Mira and Clara one morning were walking,
Of this that and t'other in confidence talking;
Lothario drew nigh and accosted each fair,
With a negligent grace, and a smile debonair;

To Clarissa he bow'd, sigh'd, and call'd her divine,
And in whispering accents, cry'd Clara be mine;
But no sooner he'd kindl'd the soft-soothing flame,
Than to Mira he whisper'd verbatim the same.

The glimpse he caught of Mademoiselle's face, as she returned to the place she had before quitted, gave Lord Greendale no desire to behold it a second time, but there was another which he was resolved to see at all events, and waited with some impatience for their removal from the spot where they had been so long stationed, having mutually enquired of each other concerning their good and bad fortune; I wish I had asked the old woman, said the sweet singer, whose notes still viberated through the heart of the Marquis, what was my father's true reason for sending me back to Mrs. Parkinton, when I thought I had bid an adieu to my school for ever: now you must know Mademoiselle, continued she, that I shrewdly suspect it was not a large party of his friends that he expected, as he seemed to insinuate, though to be sure he did not actually say so, only that the house would be full, and he should want my apartment; but now to convince

vince you how sensible I am of your friendship, I will tell you a great secret, one of the servants, before I left Redberry, whispered me that it was nobody in the world that was coming there, but the young Lord he had been living with so many years in London, and that I was sent away, she believed, because I should not fall in love with him.

The Marquis's blood mounted to his cheeks, and his fluttering heart beat double strokes; at the same instant one of his dogs fawned upon him, and barking, seemed to remind him of the sports he was neglecting; the ladies started, and getting hastily up, turned round to see what it was that had alarmed them; he had now a full view of the most beautiful face in the world.

The painter was a blockhead, and deserved never again to look on beauty, who had copied the representation of it so odiously inferior to the dazzling original.

What was to be done? twenty-nine might have considered on consequences, but nineteen has no time for reasoning, it looks neither to the right hand or the left, but runs on straight forward; Mark Anthony had met his Cleopatra, and the world he would then have thought a feeble sacrifice to charms so powerful, so potent, so irresistable !!!

The first meeting of eyes being over, and an exchange of compliments having taken place, his Lordship, without declaring the pretensions he had to their consideration, found no difficulty to engage them in conversation, and before they parted, (which was not till the school bell, which reached them from a considerable distance, summoned the Ladies home to dinner.) He had made himself so very agreeable to them, that they readily promised to meet him there again the next day; nor did the lovely Ann refuse to let him

him press her hand three times, and kiss it once before he departed.

Now all parents, guardians, young men and maidens, we pray you do not run away from a few words of advice in pursuit of the story. To both the former, who we include together, we would recommend a more strict attention to the minds and morals of female youth, than to their manners and accomplishments. Truth, modesty, humility and piety, are as necessary to the mind as food or raiment to the body. Dancing, drawing and music, may be acquired at a school, but the delicate off-sets of the soul are tender plants, require constant culture, and without it are fatally blighted, if not totally destroyed; therefore we should suppose a home situation the most wholesome, and, if it be not your own faults, the safest from such pestilential airs as blow from the coast of mercenary indulgences, and interested adulation.

lation. Mrs. Parkington was one of the best women in the world, or Dr. Pladlow would never have committed to her the care of his daughter. There are a thousand more, we trust, in the same public situation, equally good, worthy and amiable; but where is the judgment that cannot be deceived? Mademoiselle was an adept in all the arts of deception, and Mademoiselle is not a very uncommon character.

To all young men, from the age of nineteen to ninety-nine, we only advise, that they will not pursue a poor creature, whose sentinel is off guard; for when prudence is not in the way, who shall warn her that danger is approaching? Rather, oh! rather than look upon her as your prey, consider her as a defenceless being, who honour forbids you to destroy, and generosity commands you to protect, or, if your passions get the better of your reason,
and,

and, after all that have been said, you are resolved to play the mad lover, do it with innocence, and copy the example of Lord Greendale.

And you, dear maidens, to whom advice is, perhaps, one of the rarest things we can present you with, listen to our sage direction ; for though advice be a novelty, it may not, at a first view, strike your fancies so much, or be quite so acceptable as a cap, a fan, or a necklace ; yet, if you accept it gracefully, consider it well, and place it near your hearts ; it will act as a charm in keeping you out of harm's way, and, by long wearing, it will create you more friends, and procure you more admiration than a bouquet of jewels, or bracelets of oriental pearls. Turn from a flatterer of your own sex : Women never feed the vanity of women but to betray. Have no concealments, and you will want no confidant. Consult the judgment of others

rather than your own; but ask not the counsel of sycophants, fools and coquets. Follow nature, and fly from affectation. Believe no man in love with you till he has told you so, and when he has told you so, be not too credulous; but if he wishes to conceal his love from all but yourself, avoid him, for he is the enemy of your repose, and may be the destroyer of your fame.

Man, form'd the blessing, or the bane of life,

Your sex's spoiler, or your sex's friend;

To stab your peace, or call you wedded wife,

To crush your sex's weakness, or defend.

Man's words, like bonds, should hold his treasures fast,

The treasures of his honor safe should bind;

His oaths, like sacred oracles, should last,

By reason rivetted—by truth confin'd.

His love sincere, as pious martyrs feel,

When calm religion whispers holy hope,

Bidding them scorn the faggot, or the wheel,

And to their lifted eyes bright visions ope.

His

His thoughts, like theirs, should be immaculate ;
His tears, pure messengers from his pure heart ;
That heart its tend'rest principle should date,
As far from fraud, as heaven-born truth's from art.

So spake the bard of Avon, nature's child,
The echo we who chant his notes more wild.

K 6

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIX.

THE day on which Lord Greendale had the good or ill fortune to meet with his tutor's hidden treasure, he came back to Redberry at a very late hour in the afternoon, and without any marks of that success which always attended his pursuits. The only thing he brought home, that he had not carried out, was a thoughtful air, an embarrassed expression, and a guilty countenance.

Instead of delivering his fowling-piece at the door, as was his custom, he passed by.

by Pompey, who waited to take it, and walked into the parlour, where he found his anxious host impatiently waiting his return. The hand that was held out to give the cordial welcome received not my Lord's hand, but my Lord's gun; then drawing from his pocket the empty game bag, he applied it as a handkerchief to his face, without being sensible of any blunder he had committed, and in a quick hurrying tone asked a thousand questions, and made a thousand apologies, before Dr. Pladlow had recovered from the surprise, he could not but feel, at seeing the strange alteration a few hours had wrought on the composure of his young friend.

The worthy doctor's astonishment was not unmingled with uneasy doubts and fearful apprehensions. Ann was not a hundred miles from Redberry; was it possible the Marquis should have met with Ann? He asked his Lordship, with a faltering voice,

voice, which of the neighbouring manors had that day afforded such timely shelter to its winged inhabitants, and disappointed so good a marksman of his usual success.

The question itself, but more the hesitation with which it was put to him, and above all, the confused look that was fixed on him by the agitated inquirer, brought back Lord Greendale to the full possession of his senses; he saw in a moment where he had erred, and willing to settle the affair by one grand lye rather than twenty prevarications, he carried the good man seven miles to the East, when, if he had gone the direct road, it would have been only five to the West. Again the doctor's mind was restored to ease. It was impossible he could have met with Ann in the way he had taken; and what right had he to suspect his credulity was misleading him, when, from his earliest infancy, he knew his dear pupil to be a
strict

strict observer of truth, and never once to have deviated into the paths of falshood? The tranquillity which he owed to the rectitude of his own heart might have suffered alloy, had he been experimentally acquainted with the passions, such as they are, without bit or bridle, to control them; he would then have known what a wide difference there may be between a man and a lover, almost as much as there is between a man and his horse. A rational man would spurn at words and deeds, which an irrational lover has no repugnance to utter or to perform.

When the Marquis condescended to degrade himself by imposition, however mistaken the means, the motive had its root in better ground than perfidy or baseness. He loved Ann, but he revered her father, whose peace, he was convinced, depended on the preservation of his secret. Should he rob him of tranquillity, by declaring

clarifying the chance that had revealed it ; should he plant a dagger in his bosom, by letting him see the interview had been as fatal as his own fears had predicted, there was but one other step more repugnant to his feelings, and to injure the beautiful Ann would have been a crime of such infinite magnitude, as never could have found a place in a heart so tender, so honest, so sincere, as Lord Greendale's. It was the first time he had loved, and he loved with violence ; but he would have sacrificed his life in defence of her honour, how then could he ever disgrace it by unworthy solicitations ?

After he had parted from Dr. Pladlow for the night, leaving him the most assured and contented of friends and fathers, he found Jenkins waiting for him in his chamber, who soon saw, by his Lord's unusual silence, and more unusual gloominess, something had happened to distress him.

him. He asked if his Lordship was fatigued ?

— No !

Was he ill ?

— No !

Hoped he had heard no bad news from London ?

— No !

This faithful creature, who loved his Lord as a brother, and honoured him as a divinity, feared to ask any more questions, though he longed to know what it was that disturbed him. He sighed from sympathy ; tears filled his eyes, which were fixed on the Marquis's ; as he stood observing him at a respectful distance. Several minutes passed in profound silence, when rising hastily from the table, before which he had sat himself down, both arms resting on it, and his face reclined upon them, Jenkins, said he, I am not unhappy, but I am more than unhappy, I am miserable !

God

God forbid ! cried Jenkins, starting with horror.

Hear me, interrupted his Lord, I will confide in thee ; I know thou art attached by friendship to me, to duty only I would not venture my confidence ; even from both I require the security of an oath ; swear then, that however it may appear to you, that, even for my own advantage, my secret should be given up to my family, though thou wast sure it would save me from perdition to disclose it, swear thou wilt never betray me.

Jenkins was terrified ; he hesitated—the idea of keeping a secret, that his Lord had certainly implied might prove his destruction, if not revealed, conveyed nothing but images of horror to his timid imagination. On the other hand, humble as his situation was, it was possible, if he was let into the nature of his Lord's misfortunes, he might be happy enough to assist in removing them, or to prevent their consequences,

consequences, such, at least, as attention, diligence, and vigilance, could prevent.

Actuated by motives of affection, in which curiosity, or self-interest, was no ways concerned, poor Jenkins conformed to all that his Lord required, and was accordingly let into the mystery of his situation, beginning with Miss Palmerston, to whom his family had married him, and ending with Miss Pladlow, to whom he would most willingly have married himself, and the ways and means to accomplish this desirable event, took them up so long in concerting, altering, and finally to arrange, that, though the sun is no early riser in the month of September; he had actually peeped into the chamber, and beamed a good-morrow on his Lordship before he had once thought of dismissing his old friend and companion, but from henceforth his new confidant and counsellor.

Having ordered himself to be awakened at nine, Jenkins was very much surprised when

when he drew aside the curtain, not to find him in bed ; but hearing his Lordship calling on him from his dressing-room, he made haste to obey the summons, and found the Marquis very busy writing at his desk. Sit down, said he, and do not speak to me till I have finished what I am about.

The first part of this command his humility prevented him from performing ; but the second was punctually obeyed. He observed that his Lord spent as much of his time in reading what he had already written, as in writing what he was next to read, which prolonged the time so much, that it took up nearly an hour before he came to a conclusion ; then presenting the fruits of his labour to Jenkins, he bid him read, after he had heard the reasons he should advance to him, why he had thought it necessary such a letter should be written.

You

You know, said he, I have promised my divine Ann to be in her neighbourhood again this day, and that she had the goodness to signify, that I should find her at the same place, where I had the extatic bliss of seeing her yesterday. For her sake, for my own, I must see her no more, as long as I remain the guest of her father. I make to him, to honour, and to the reputation of Miss Pladlow, this sacrifice of my dearest inclinations; I love her to madness, and will, to get rid of that cruel engagement which fatally binds me to another, act a part of desperation; but, oh! Jenkins, till that bar is removed, till I can honorably demand her of her father, I would avoid another interview, which might be paid for at the price of her destruction, and my eternal confusion. The letter I have given you, and which I desire you now to read, must speak for me to Miss Pladlow. You shall convey it to her dear hands; but return not, I charge you,

you, without an answer, such as I have requested. Jenkins, having read the letter, gave it back to his Lord, kissed his hand as a token of approbation, and at that moment the Marquis appeared to him a better man than David, who had never practised his self-denial, and a wiser man than Solomon, who, probably, had never written a love-letter so much to the purpose in his whole life, as that from Lord Greendale to Miss Pladlow.

LETTER.

One short moment, how sweet, how exquisitely dear the recollection of that moment! what has it not opened to my view of superlative happiness; again I might have realized the fleeting vision of felicity; this day with your own permission, dearest Miss Pladlow, I might have seen you, at the moment you receive this I
5 might

might have been at your feet, I might have been thanking you for instructing my heart in the first rudiments of tenderness, for teaching it to feel emotions new and enchanting; all this your condescending goodness would have permitted me to enjoy! yet I profit not by your indulgence, I fly not to you, I press not your lovely hands to my lips; these feeble expressions of my soul will be honored with their soft touch, whilst I, self banished from your presence, dare not approach, dare not quit Redberry, dare not trust myself again in your sight without the sanction of your father, I had almost said my father, his claims to my affection and respect are little inferior to those of a parent; yes, madam, I have the honor to share his paternal cares and tenderness with you, that man who feels he never can resign his pretensions, even to more than your favor, is the Greendale, who has so long engrossed the attentions of your excellent father, who
has

has robbed you for so many years, of his personal protection; my crime, if you account it one, was unpremeditated; I knew not he had such a jewel in his possession, till chance conducted me yesterday to that ever-beloved spot where his treasure was deposited, and having once seen it, how to make it my own, will employ my thoughts unceasingly, till the means are accomplished; I acknowledge my presumption, and if you accuse me of unreasonable expectations, I plead guilty; but dear and adored accuser, as I throw myself on your mercy, judge me with compassion, I ask you, not to hate me, and if you do not hate, may I not venture one step farther; no, I will not solicit a return of love till my heart tells me I deserve it, my intentions are honorable, yet so cruel is my situation, that being forced to confine them to my own breast, they must wear the complexion of dishonor, for this reason it is that I fly from you, it occasions my silence to your father,

father, he does not even suspect that I know there is such a being as yourself in existence, he must never know till I can ask him with confidence for permission to lead you to the altar, that we ever have met, and it will be still better for us all, if he is at present left to suppose we have not so much as heard of each other ; Oh ! did you know the whole of my situation, how dreadfully incumbered, how surrounded by almost insurmountable difficulties, and which nothing but my passion for you can ever give me a chance of surmounting ; pity, if not love would make you reserve for me that hand and those vows on which the felicity of my future days must intirely depend ; long, very long, I fear it may be before I come to claim the blessings your goodness may preserve for me, till then we meet no more, nor must I write to you again ; I call upon heaven to witness, that if you honor me with your remembrance, no other woman shall bear my name,

or have the smallest share in my affections. Why, why am I not at this moment master of my own fate, why forced to sustain the appearance of duplicity, degrading to my character, abhorrent to my nature! if your heart is as gentle as your face is beautiful, it will melt at those woes of which you are the source, for as I never knew the transporting extent of happiness, till inspired by yourself, I can also aver that it was you who first made me acquainted with the extremes of misery.

I shall soon leave this kingdom, how long I shall remain abroad, must depend on the success of my endeavours to throw down the bars that fatally at this time obstruct my felicity. Never my dearest Miss Pladlow will I return but to sue for your preference, not sculking like a thief to steal away your affections, but to demand them in the face of the world as the honorable reward of my fidelity; hard is the
service

service I enter upon, but glorious will be the conquest, and if in the pursuit I appear to trample down those fair principles of propriety, which ought to be carefully preserved by him who aspires to the possession of your heart, if you hear that I am guilty of excesses that my soul would shudder to commit, even if your father should be deceived, and tell you my actions have degraded me, though he should forsake me as an object no longer worthy of his notice, do not you believe me the criminal, the world and he may have cause to think me, do not you forsake me, but whisper to yourself this truth, though to secure you my own, and honorably mine for ever, I must, by my conduct, seem wholly undeserving of you; that oh! it is for you, my gentle, my adored, my lovely mistress, that for awhile I shall submit to disguise my real character, in which I trust, there are no traits to alarm your delicacy, it is to the shrine of honor that I sacrifice

the semblance of honor, and whilst I seem to disregard the laws of rectitude, I shall in reality be the most zealous in maintaining them; my fate was enveloped in mystery almost at my birth, one day it shall be revealed to you, at present think it impracticable, and condescend to pardon the darkness in which I am forced to leave you.

I mean to intreat your good father to be the companion of my travels, if he indulges my request I beseech you do not oppose it, his presence will be necessary to my existence, when divided from you by an immensity of space that freezes my blood to contemplate, now that I am at the distance only of five miles from you. I positively will never go without him. Not to hear of you and about you, for such a length of time as I may be absent, would drive me to distraction, and in my entangled situation there is not a method

thod in the world by which I can so much as be informed of your health, but from the accounts you send him of it; let them be frequent, let them be particular, tell him all your motions, say that you regret his absence, that you sigh for his return, and permit your honored grateful Greendale to suppose himself included in the cause of those dear regrets, and those precious sighs; such condescending expressions, permitted to be so construed, will feed my famished hopes, and give me strength to encounter and subdue every difficulty that opposes my way to you and happiness. The person who delivers this will give it your unseen. Dear Miss Pladlow, have no confidant, let no one share your confidence, I am undone for ever if you have not the goodness to confine my secret within your own dear bosom, repose your trust on my honor, I never, never will deceive or mislead the daughter of my friend, the mistress of my affections, I intreat you to

L 3

signify

signify, that you pardon, pity me, and will accept the only terms I have at present to propose; I feel my presumption in making them, but mine is a case of desperation, and without making them I should have lost you for ever; I do not ask for a written answer, it may not be in your power to indulge me with so sweet a treasure where you have so many observers, but say thus to the messenger: tell the person who sent you hither, I am not dissatisfied, and in those few words, love shall teach me to read volumes of his own eloquence. I would bid you adieu, but cannot.

GREENDALE.

From the time Jenkins was dispatched to ——— with this letter, till his return to Redberry, the Marquis's impatience amounted almost to agony; at once the sport of hope, then the prey of despair; this moment talking to Dr. Pladlow on
one

one subject, his thoughts intensely fixed on another, the next snatches up a book, seems to devour the contents, but in fact does not know whether it is written in latin, greek or hebrew; now you find him below in the parlour, then you hear him above traversing his chamber, at the rate of ten miles an hour; in short, had his worthy tutor one grain of suspicion to sixteen ounces of sound judgment in his composition, he must have discovered, that something more than common was the matter with his fidgeting Lordship, but of that, if he had any seeds in his nature, it had never been called into action, but where he feared the honor of his pupil and the happiness of his daughter were concerned, and how could they be concerned on the present occasion, for had not his Lordship said, he had gone the day before to the East, and was not his daughter to the West; the only event he dreaded, which was a meeting between them, could therefore not have

have taken place, and his mind rested in security; but not so the Marquis, he had neither rest to his head, his heart, or his limbs till the return of his messenger, to whom he could only say, throwing himself into a chair, Well, Jenkins, have you seen her.

I have, my Lord, she has read your letter, and bid me tell your Lordship she was perfectly satisfied.

Enough, it was all I required of her, all I could expect from her, but tell me, dear Jenkins, how did you get to speak to her alone.

Nothing so easy, my Lord, I met her before I reached the wood, she was walking unattended in the field that leads to it, I knew her by her likeness to the picture, I ventured to accost her, and enquired if I had not the honor to speak to Miss

Pladlow, she answered, yes, and I then delivered your Lordship's letter, which at first she refused to receive, but when I told her I brought it from Redberry, she held out her hand to take it, looked confused, and observing me with more attention than she had done before, said with an air of suspicion, that I certainly did not belong to her father, nor did she ever remember to have seen me; I begged she would be so good to apply to the contents of the letter, which I hoped would remove any unfavorable impression, my appearance might have occasioned.

Proceed, proceed, cried Lord Greendale, whose emotions were various and violent, tell me all she said, all she did, all she looked, heaven and earth! if she despises not my proposals, if she will be silent and faithful, I may yet be fortunate; why don't you speak, Jenkins.

She

She turned from me, my Lord, as she was reading your Lordship's letter, but when she had read it twice over, perhaps oftener, for she did not come forward again in three quarters of an hour.

Charming prudence, cried the enraptured lover, all that time was devoted to consideration, and then, and then, Jenkins, how did she look.

My Lord, I hardly know how to describe her looks, they were confused, delighted, agitated, she trembled exceedingly.

Ecstatic creature, delighted, you are sure she looked delighted; repeat that word again, Jenkins, it conveys to me the sound of happiness, you are sure you did not mistake the expression of her countenance?

Im-

Impossible, my Lord, that I should mistake it, sorrow may be concealed and anger smothered, but the transports arising from unexpected good fortune are not to be concealed; Miss Pladlow at least could not conceal them, her face was animated with blushes, her smile was full of pleasure, and her eyes danced with joy.

The Marquis almost envied his faithful messenger, who had been permitted to witness such a profusion of charms, and as for his descriptive powers in reporting them, he thought he had never heard any thing half so eloquent, but as our readers may not like repetitions quite as much as his Lordship, we shall proceed no further with the dialogue, because though the whole substance of it has been comprised in two pages, more or less, yet by the contrivances of love and the ingenuity of the lover, the thread and matter of it was spun and re-spun so very fine, that it reached from
hour

hour to hour, from day to day, from month to month, and even from year to year, we mean to say at such times and seasons as the Marquis had occasion for Jenkins's attendance, which was now more frequently required than heretofore.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

